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Joint Inspection Unit

**Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the preliminary
review of its statute and working methods****Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on a preliminary review of its statute and working methods.

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* A/58/150.



I. Introduction

1. The Joint Inspection Unit was created on an experimental basis nearly 40 years ago, following one of the most serious financial crises in United Nations history and upon the recommendation of an ad hoc committee established by the General Assembly to examine the financial situation of the United Nations and the specialized agencies (see A/6343, para. 67). The Unit was later established as a standing subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, to which it is responsible as it is to the competent legislative organs of the other organizations of the United Nations system that have accepted its statute ("participating organizations") (see General Assembly resolution 2150 (XXI), 2735 A (XXV), 2924 B (XXVII) and 31/192). In the 27 years that have elapsed since the approval by the Assembly of the Unit's statute, the United Nations system has undergone momentous changes and most of its organizations have undertaken significant reforms aimed at improving resource management and lending a greater degree of coherence to their activities.

2. As Member States have focused increasingly on the efficiency of services provided by these organizations and the proper use of resources available for carrying out their activities, the role of the only independent external oversight body tasked with verifying this efficiency, improving management and methods and achieving greater coordination between organizations should have become more relevant. Nevertheless, participating organizations have expressed concern that some of the Unit's reports are of little value in terms of promoting a more efficient utilization of resources and more effective management (see A/47/755), and the General Assembly has called on the Unit to enhance the usefulness of its reports and its contribution to the management efficiency and transparency of the organizations within the United Nations system (see General Assembly resolutions 48/221 and 45/237).

3. To answer these concerns and better steer its work in the selection, planning, conduct and reporting of its inspections, evaluations and investigations, the Unit adopted a revised set of internal standards and guidelines in 1996 (see A/51/34, annex I). The Unit is in the process of finalizing a set of internal working procedures that will complement the standards and guidelines. These procedures are aimed, *inter alia*, at ensuring that:

- JIU recommendations are consistently tested against the Unit's collective wisdom, as required by article 11, paragraph 2 of the statute, section G of the standards and guidelines, and General Assembly resolution 56/245, paragraph 9.
- All provisions of the statute and the internal standards and guidelines are complied with, and the Chairman is empowered to ensure such compliance as he/she is requested to provide in General Assembly resolution 56/245, paragraph 10.
- The Unit's programme of work is based on a strategic approach and on a systematic risk assessment of participating organizations.
- The use of travel resources is optimized.

4. Since 1996, the Unit's efforts have primarily centred on responding to the request made by the General Assembly that it "take the necessary steps to achieve a punctual and systematic follow-up of its recommendations as approved by the

legislative organs of participating organizations" (see General Assembly resolution 50/233, para. 16). These efforts have been extensively described in a special report to the General Assembly, as well as in the last three annual reports of the Unit (A/56/356, A/56/34, A/57/34 and A/58/34). It should be recalled that the Assembly has endorsed the system for follow-up on the Unit's reports and recommendations (see General Assembly resolution 54/16), and that procedures have been established in this regard by most of the participating organizations. The Unit will endeavour to have similar procedures established by the remaining organizations as soon as possible.

5. In addition, in 1998, the Unit established a set of policies and guidelines for interaction with its participating organizations, the thrust of which is to gain awareness of specific problems faced by individual organizations. These policies and guidelines have thus laid the foundations for the process of risk assessment which the Unit now plans to undertake, as described in paragraph 18 below.

6. Notwithstanding these measures, the Unit has come to the conclusion that if it is to fulfil its mandate and meet the needs of the participating organizations more effectively, further improvements must be brought to its functioning and changes enacted in the near future, some of which might require amendments to its statute. The Unit has therefore begun a broad process of review aimed at identifying impediments to the effective discharge of its functions and designing possible solutions to overcome these hindrances. Furthermore, at its forty-third session, in July 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the Unit undertake an in-depth review of its statute, working methods and proceedings, and present to the Fifth Committee at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly concrete proposals on how best the actual weaknesses can be addressed in the context of its consideration of the annual programme of work of the Unit (see A/58/16, paras. 464 and 465).

7. The Unit decided, therefore, to submit the present preliminary review to the General Assembly during the main part of its fifty-eighth session, with the understanding that it needs to be expanded and completed through further consultations over the next few months. A final review, which will take into account the views expressed by the General Assembly on the present report and during the subsequent process of consultations, will be submitted to the resumed fifty-eighth session in 2004.

8. The General Assembly has invited the Unit to provide detailed information on a proposed new procedure for handling comments of the participating organizations on the findings and recommendations of the Unit in comparison with the current procedure, together with the comments of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) thereon, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session (see General Assembly resolution 57/284, para. 11). This issue being very closely related to those examined during the present review, it was decided to respond to this request within the context of the in-depth report that will be submitted in the near future, rather than separately.

II. Weaknesses and issues to be addressed

9. To guide its reflection, the Unit has structured its review according to the chapters of its statute, although not all the points highlighted refer to the statute itself, nor would they all require an amendment to it.

A. Composition and appointment (chapter II of the statute)

10. The Unit believes that the actual process of selection of inspectors does not always guarantee full adherence to provisions of article 2 of the statute. This process may need to be reviewed to allow for a careful examination of the individual qualifications of candidates. In particular, the need for a scrutiny mechanism to be established to assess individual candidacies, based on an agreed job description, is increasingly acknowledged. The current process, which involves two stages, is also widely perceived as cumbersome. Various solutions can be defined to simplify it and ensure that the most suitable candidates are selected.

11. The current ratio of inspectors to research staff is not in line with normal practice in public and private oversight and consulting organizations. At present, there are more inspectors than research officers, an anomalous situation that hampers effective assistance to the former and constrains the Unit's output, and should therefore be corrected. This can be achieved through various means, including a reduction in the number of inspectors and/or an increase in the staff provided to assist them.

12. Such changes, if enacted, should not affect the principle of equitable geographical distribution and reasonable rotation. It may also be useful to reconsider the inspectors' term of office with a view to accelerating rotation and facilitating the renewal and updating of the Unit's expertise.

B. Functions, powers and responsibilities (chapter III of the statute)

13. Given the changes which have occurred in its participating organizations and the evolving environment in which it operates, the Unit believes that it is time to reflect anew on its very purpose and define more precisely its strategic positioning not only vis-à-vis the governing bodies of its participating organizations, but also with regard to other oversight bodies, both internal and external. As stated in the introduction above, the Unit's main comparative advantage lies in the fact that it is the only independent system-wide external oversight body, which puts it in the unique position of acting as a catalyst for the comparison and dissemination of best managerial, administrative and programming practices in the system as a whole. Building on this advantage would allow the Unit to draw common lessons from the vast amount of reviews and evaluations conducted in the various organizations of the system.

14. The Unit is convinced that one of its main goals should be to provide Member States with reasonable assurances that activities are undertaken in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with set objectives, and it plans to gradually build its capacity to do so. In this context, the adequate balance to be achieved between evaluations, inspections and investigations must also be carefully examined.

15. The statute indicates that the inspectors shall not have the power of decision. While it is well understood that the Unit's role should remain to propose reforms and not impose them, its value will increasingly rest on its ability to follow-up the implementation of its recommendations. Because the recommendations are advisory and not mandatory, meaningful follow-up can only occur if specific action is taken on the recommendations by the competent organs of participating organizations. The Unit has endeavoured to obtain such specific action over the years, and the General Assembly, recognizing that the impact of the Unit is a "shared responsibility of the Member States, the Unit and the secretariats of the participating organizations", has invited the legislative organs of participating organizations "to take concrete action on the recommendations of the Unit" (see General Assembly resolution 50/233). Specific action by legislative organs, however, remains too rare an occurrence. Changes in this respect would assist the Unit in reaching its full potential.

C. Mode of operation (chapter IV of the statute)

16. The Unit also believes that the current process for drawing up its annual programme of work should be improved. The statute indicates that the Unit should take into account, besides its own observations, the experience and assessment of priorities as regards subjects for inspection, any requests of the competent organs of the organizations and suggestions received from the executive heads and the bodies of the United Nations system concerned with budgetary control, investigation, coordination and evaluation.

17. Requests received from the competent organs of participating organizations are always addressed as a priority by the Unit. However, with regard to internal suggestions made by the inspectors and external suggestions received from executive heads, it is felt that they lack coherence and continuity. In some cases, suggestions sent by secretariats may not necessitate review by an external body. The resulting programme of work often appears to be a compilation of individual topics rather than the fruit of a logical and cohesive exercise.

18. Therefore, the Unit has decided to develop a strategic framework, through which it will work to systematically identify programmatic, managerial and administrative areas in participating organizations and in the system as a whole that present an element of risk and where value can be added by the Unit. The Unit would delineate the issues that deserve its scrutiny, not only in the immediate future but also in the medium-term, and adoption of the annual programme of work would naturally derive from the framework. This assessment would be carried out after consultations with the secretariats of participating organizations, including their internal oversight services; the external auditors; and, whenever feasible, Member States. Through this exercise, the Unit plans to acquire a deeper and wider knowledge not only of the difficulties and challenges faced by individual organizations but, most importantly, of the common issues requiring that system-wide solutions be devised and practices harmonized.

19. The outline for such a strategic framework is contained in the annex; guidance from the General Assembly on this preliminary text would be particularly useful. It is hoped that in time the strategic framework will become a powerful tool with which the Unit may improve its mode of operation and effectiveness.

20. Maximizing the impact of the Unit on the cost-effectiveness of activities within the United Nations system, however, will require more than improvements in the elaboration of the programme of work and in the quality of its recommendations. It will entail far-reaching changes in the way that its reports are handled by participating organizations. Despite repeated requests by the General Assembly, the statutory requirements for the handling and processing of the Unit's reports are not always fully complied with (see General Assembly resolutions 56/245, para. 6; 57/284, para. 6; and 50/233, para. 11), nor are the procedures adopted by many participating organizations in recent years in this regard.

21. In particular, the Unit has indicated on a number of occasions that delays in the issuance of the comments of CEB, as well as discrepancies between these coordinated comments and individual comments received from participating organizations, constitute significant obstacles in the timely and adequate consideration of its reports.¹ Equally disconcerting are the significant differences often noted between comments made by secretariats on draft reports shared with them for factual corrections and general observations and the official comments issued by the same secretariats on the final texts of the reports.

D. Administrative, budgetary and financial arrangements (chapter VI of the statute)

22. The Unit considers some of its operational difficulties to be linked to the limited powers granted by the statute to its Chairman.² The statute only indicates that the Chairman plays a coordinating role in respect of the Unit's programme of work for the year; that he is the formal channel of communication with the competent bodies and the executive heads of the organizations; that he represents the Unit, as necessary, at meetings of the organizations; and that he performs on the Unit's behalf such other functions as it may decide. The Unit is considering ways to strengthen the authority of the Chairman, thus allowing him/her to genuinely lead and manage the work of the Unit. Various options can be discussed in this regard, including that of changing the Chairman's mode of election and extending the length of his/her tenure, as well as granting him/her a status equivalent to that of officials presiding over other oversight or budgetary bodies of similar standing.

Notes

¹ See in particular A/57/34; the Unit notes that the wording of the statute should be modified to reflect the change of appellation from Administrative Committee on Coordination to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

² The Unit also notes the need to update the wording of the statute to render it gender-neutral.

Annex

JIU strategic framework: an outline

I. JIU objectives and goals

Functions, powers and responsibilities

(Article 5 of the JIU statute)

1. *The inspectors shall have the broadest powers of investigation in all matters having a bearing on the efficiency of the services and the proper use of funds.*
2. *They shall provide an independent view through inspection and evaluation aimed at improving management and methods and at achieving greater coordination between organizations.*
3. *The Unit shall satisfy itself that the activities undertaken by the organizations are carried out in the most economical manner and that the optimum use is made of resources available for carrying out these activities.*
4. *Without prejudice to the principle that external evaluation remains the responsibility of appropriate intergovernmental bodies, the Unit ... may assist them in carrying out their responsibilities for external evaluation of programmes and activities. On its own initiative or at the request of the executive heads, the Unit may also advise organizations on their methods for internal evaluation, periodically assess these methods and make ad hoc evaluations of programmes and activities.*
5. *The inspectors may propose reforms or make recommendations they deem necessary to the competent organs of the organizations. They shall not, however, have the power of decision, nor shall they interfere in the operations of the services they inspect.*

* * *

Mission statement of the Joint Inspection Unit

As the only independent external oversight body of the United Nations system mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations system-wide, the Unit aims:

- (a) To assist the legislative organs of the participating organizations in meeting their governance responsibilities in respect of their oversight function concerning management by the secretariats of human, financial and other resources;
- (b) To help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the respective secretariats in achieving the legislative mandates and the mission objectives established for the organizations;
- (c) To promote greater coordination between the organizations of the United Nations system;

(d) To identify best practices, propose benchmarks and facilitate information-sharing throughout the system.

* * *

II. Mode of operation

1. The Unit will accomplish its mission objectives and goals through improving its mode of operation by:

(a) Selecting relevant and timely subjects for its reports and notes on the basis of the identification of the key issues and risk areas of the organizations;

(b) Inviting more requests from the legislative organs as well as encouraging suggestions from CEB, in addition to those submitted by individual executive heads;

(c) Further improving the quality of the reports and notes and the relevance of the recommendations contained therein, it being understood in this context that, as a matter of procedure, JIU will produce reports only when they contain any recommendation requiring legislative action and that the Unit intends to make more use of notes, which may take the form of management letters, thus reducing the workload of the legislative organs. To that end, the Unit will continue to indicate clearly which of its recommendations are addressed for action to the legislative organs and which to the executive heads;

(d) Promoting the systematic consideration of reports/recommendations by the legislative organs;

(e) Monitoring the implementation of approved/accepted recommendations and reporting thereon;

(f) Building gradually its capacity to provide, in accordance with article 5 (3) of the statute, reasonable independent assurances to the legislative organs that the activities undertaken by the organizations are conducted in the most effective and economical manner;

(g) Providing direct access to the Unit for individual Member States and staff members of participating organizations wishing to bring to its attention areas where improvements should be sought.

Selection of subjects of reports and notes

The Unit shall be responsible for preparing its annual programme of work. In so doing, it shall take into account, besides its own observations, experience and assessment of priorities as regards subjects for inspection, any requests of the competent organs of the organizations and suggestions received from the executive heads of the organizations and the bodies of the United Nations system concerned with budgetary control, investigation, coordination and evaluation. (JIU statute, article 9 (1))

2. In order to enhance the relevance, timeliness, quality, cost-effectiveness and impact of its activities and to make optimum use of its limited resources, the Unit will proactively and systematically identify those specific and cross-organizational priority issues and areas at risk where its involvement is expected to add maximum

value. This will be reflected in a strategic guide for the formulation of its work programme. For this purpose, the Unit will rely on such measures as:

- (a) Desk reviews of pertinent information available, both in-house and online;
- (b) Following the sessions of the legislative organs, as appropriate;
- (c) Closer consultations with:
 - (i) External and internal oversight bodies, including sharing information on risk assessments conducted by them;
 - (ii) Executive heads/secretariat officials;
 - (iii) Members of legislative organs, whenever feasible.

3. In developing its programme of work, the Unit will first consider requests by legislative organs, and will fully take into account changing priorities and needs, as identified above. It will also give due consideration to a number of factors, such as:

- (a) Adequate mix of system-wide, multi-organizational and single-organization reports and notes. System-wide reports will include reports on issues which are of common concern to all organizations and for which solutions require concerted action and a collective approach through the CEB machinery, as well as reports for which individual solutions to common problems must be devised for each organization;
- (b) Appropriate coverage of various subject areas.

4. Being convinced that CEB (assisted by its High-level Committee on Management and High-level Committee on Programmes) is best placed to identify the problems having system-wide implications, JIU will give priority consideration to suggestions channelled through or in consultation with CEB.

Quality, relevance and impact of JIU reports and notes

5. The Unit will intensify its efforts to ensure that, as described in paragraph 4 of the document outlining its follow-up system (see A/52/34, annex I, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/16), recommendations contained in JIU reports are:

- (a) Directed at correcting clear deficiencies with practical, action-oriented measures to solve significant problems;
- (b) Convincing and well-supported by the facts and analysis in the report;
- (c) Realistic in terms of implied resource commitments and technical capabilities;
- (d) Cost-effective;
- (e) Specific regarding actions to be taken and those responsible for taking actions so that implementation and resulting impact can be clearly tracked.

Systematic consideration of JIU reports/recommendations by the legislative organs

6. The follow-up system mentioned in paragraph 5 above and the procedures for the handling/follow-up of JIU reports and recommendations which have been established on the basis of consultations between the Unit and secretariats of most of the United Nations system organizations contain clear provisions for the systematic consideration of JIU reports/recommendations. The Unit will endeavour to have similar procedures established with the remaining organizations as soon as possible.

7. The General Assembly has stressed that the impact of the Unit is a "shared responsibility of the Member States, the Unit and the secretariats of the participating organizations" (see General Assembly resolution 50/233). While the JIU is committed to discharging its responsibility to the fullest, it is essential that other concerned parties discharge theirs. Therefore, the Unit will monitor and report on the implementation of these endorsed procedures, in particular with regard to the requirement for specific actions to be taken by legislative organs on each of the relevant recommendations addressed to them.

Implementation of approved/accepted recommendations

Executive heads of organizations shall ensure that recommendations of the Unit approved by their respective competent organs are implemented as expeditiously as possible. Such implementation may be subject to verification by the competent organs of the organizations, which may also request the Unit to issue follow-up reports. The Unit may also prepare such reports on its own initiative. (JIU statute, article 12)

8. The implementation of approved/accepted recommendations is the final and most important step in assuring the effectiveness of JIU activities. JIU has recently developed a tracking system, with the help of which it will monitor and report on the implementation of approved/accepted recommendations.



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**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian
and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations,
including special economic assistance**

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

Report of the Secretary-General**

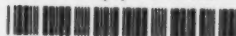
Summary

The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/155 of 16 December 2002, requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-eighth session a comprehensive, updated report on the safety and security situation of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the resolution, including progress made by the Secretary-General in pursuing accountability and assessing responsibility for all individual security incidents involving United Nations and associated personnel at all levels throughout the United Nations system, as well as an account of the measures taken by Governments and the United Nations to prevent and respond to such incidents.

The present report outlines the threats against the safety and security of United Nations personnel over the past year as well as an update on the implementation of initiatives approved during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Because those initiatives are to be implemented over the course of the biennium 2002-2003, the report is a progress report on actions that have already been taken and an indication of what remains to be done.

* A/58/150.

** The present report was delayed because of difficulties in obtaining accurate data regarding the status of detained staff members from United Nations agencies, programmes and funds.



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 57/155 of 16 December 2002, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-eighth session a comprehensive, updated report on the safety and security situation of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the resolution, including progress made by the Secretary-General in pursuing accountability and assessing responsibility for all individual security incidents throughout the United Nations system, as well as an account of the measures taken by Governments and the United Nations to prevent and respond to such incidents.

2. The report has been prepared in consultation with the members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and covers the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.

II. Threats against United Nations personnel

3. As reported in past years, United Nations personnel continue to face significant threats to their personal safety and security in all regions in which they operate, the most dangerous of which is physical violence directed against them. Aside from deaths due to illness or vehicle and aircraft accidents, 196 United Nations civilian staff members have been killed since 1992 as a result of malicious acts. Five of those deaths occurred during the reporting period, the majority of victims being Palestinians working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (see annex I). (The figure of 196 deaths does not include uniformed peacekeepers. It also does not include 18 United Nations civilian staff members who have lost their lives since 1992 as a result of aircraft accidents due to technical problems. The losses resulting from the attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad on 19 August 2003 fall outside the reporting period.) A consolidated list of staff members who have lost their lives as a result of a malicious act, as well as an indication of the status of legal proceedings undertaken by the relevant Member State, is included in the report, entitled "Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel" (A/58/187), which was submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/28.

4. The security of United Nations personnel continues to be compromised by numerous incidents of hostage-taking, kidnapping and sexual assault. In the past year seven incidents of hostage-taking and kidnapping occurred involving 14 United Nations personnel in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Somalia.

5. The most prevalent threats to the security of United Nations operations are physical attacks, robbery and theft. More than 258 incidents of assault on United Nations and non-governmental organization (NGO) personnel were reported during the period, including 69 in Afghanistan, 30 in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and 53 reported by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. Harassment of United Nations personnel also continues to be widespread, with at least 168 such incidents reported during the past year.

6. The safety of United Nations and NGO operations was also affected by more than 30 reported bomb threats against field offices, all of which proved to be hoaxes. However, attacks on United Nations premises and properties in the field are a matter

of concern. During the reporting period there were approximately 270 violent attacks against United Nations and NGO compounds and convoys. In addition, at least 83 incursions into United Nations compounds were reported, although most were the result of non-violent political protests. More than 550 incidents of theft of office equipment, official vehicles, staff residences and personal belongings were reported. While theft most directly affects the quantity of material resources available to United Nations operations, it also has a significant impact on the personal safety and well-being of staff members and the integrity of United Nations field installations.

7. As the statistics clearly indicate, the safety and security of United Nations personnel continues to be threatened on an alarmingly frequent basis. Due to their heightened visibility as representatives of the international community, United Nations personnel are placed at substantial risk of being targeted by many diverse entities and individuals. In addition, because of the dangerous environments in which they work, which are often characterized by high rates of crime and unemployment, United Nations staff members often become the targets of street crime. The increased number of physical assaults, thefts, attacks, incursions, hostage-taking incidents and kidnappings reported during the past year speaks to these most disturbing trends. The nature of these attacks as well as the perception on the part of many staff members and their dependants that they are at risk has resulted in serious mental anguish. Therefore, the initiatives taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/217 of 21 December 2001 to reinforce the United Nations security management system assume even greater importance in the context of enabling the organizations of the United Nations system to perform their tasks in response to events wherever and whenever they may occur.

III. Arrest, detention and other restrictions

8. The number of persons arrested, under detention or missing and with respect to whom the United Nations has been unable to exercise fully its right to protection declined slightly over the past year, from 39 to 34 cases. One case dates back to 1983, another to 1985, one to 1995 and another to 1997. A consolidated list of the staff members concerned is provided in annex II.

9. According to information provided by UNRWA, in the Gaza Strip a total of nine staff members were arrested and detained by the Palestinian Authority during the reporting period. Of those, seven were subsequently released. In the West Bank, the Israeli authorities detained 59 staff members, 23 of whom remained in detention at the end of the reporting period. Regrettably, UNRWA was not always provided with adequate or timely information by the relevant authorities on the reasons for the arrest or detention of its staff members. In the absence of such information, it was not possible to determine whether there were circumstances that would warrant the assertion by UNRWA of its right to functional immunity.

10. Throughout the reporting period, the United Nations community in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory experienced considerable difficulty and delays due to the closure of access roads. United Nations vehicles were stopped at Israel Defense Forces checkpoints and roadblocks, often for very extended periods of time. While passing through the checkpoints, United Nations personnel were on occasion abused and even physically assaulted. There were many incursions by both the Israel

Defense Forces and the Palestinian Authority into UNRWA installations, resulting in substantial damage. UNRWA is particularly concerned at the number of incidents in which Israel Defense Forces operations were carried out in densely populated civilian areas, thereby causing an increasing number of incidental civilian injuries and fatalities, including the deaths of four UNRWA staff members and a school counsellor working under contract for the agency.

IV. Current security management system

A. Arrangements at headquarters locations

11. The strengthening of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator has substantially improved its ability to implement its mandate, including monitoring security arrangements, providing advice and tracking incidents. It has in particular been able to conduct a much wider range of missions designed to assist designated officials in carrying out their security tasks and in meeting accountability standards.

12. An important activity of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator is supporting the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, made up primarily of representatives of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds. Over the past year, the Network has focused its attention on detailed performance reviews as well as on a number of special projects aimed at validating and adjusting procedures and practices so as to implement fully the initiatives and objectives of the Secretary-General and the executive heads of agencies in reinforcing staff security and safety. Current matters under consideration by the Network and its working groups include further enhancement of security training, the application of minimum operating security standards in the field, air safety (with major inputs from the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Civil Aviation Organization), communication compatibility in the field (proposed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP) and special security issues concerning women (with the particular involvement of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP and the United Nations Development Programme). The Network is also examining means by which to validate security phases periodically in the light of any changes in threat or risk.

13. As part of the policy on accountability within the United Nations security management system, the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator has conducted eight compliance and inspection missions over the past year to assist all those concerned in carrying out their responsibilities. The frequency of those missions increased after November 2002, when a full complement of Headquarters staff was on board. Twenty-two additional compliance and inspection missions are currently scheduled to be conducted before 31 December 2003. These inspections help to sensitize all field duty stations to the importance of full compliance with the minimum operating security standards.

14. Over the past year, security assessment missions have been conducted in eight countries, and eight field support missions (including the deployment of eight additional field security officers to Iraq when United Nations international personnel returned to the country) and one investigation have been carried out. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator assisted designated officials in managing seven hostage situations, two of which required the deployment of experienced

hostage negotiators from Headquarters to the field. Furthermore, it conducted a workshop in conjunction with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations focusing on the development of standing security operating procedures for peacekeeping missions.

15. As part of the effort to improve the collection and analysis of data pertaining to security incidents involving United Nations personnel, a computerized reporting system is being developed and is at an advanced stage. The United Nations security incident reporting system, which is intended to provide for direct input of data and information-sharing among the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, the headquarters of United Nations agencies and programmes and field offices, is expected to be operational in May 2004.

16. In an effort to convey security information in a consistent manner to all staff members of the United Nations system, Intranet and Extranet web sites of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator became operational in May 2003. The web sites provide contact information on all staff, the latest version of the travel advisory, details on the malicious acts insurance policy, advice on the post-exposure preventive treatment kit and programme for AIDS, the English- and French-language versions of the training CD-ROM entitled "Basic security in the field: staff safety, health and welfare", and a copy of the booklet entitled "Security in the field" in each of the six official United Nations languages.

17. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator continues to investigate the death or serious injury of all United Nations civilian personnel, other than those serving as members of peacekeeping missions, that are considered to have occurred under suspicious circumstances or as a result of a malicious act. Only one such investigation was required during the reporting period. The results of investigations continue to be provided to the appropriate Member States so as to assist them in discharging their responsibilities for the security of United Nations personnel.

B. Arrangements in the field

18. Throughout the reporting period, United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, have been actively recruiting, training and deploying skilled field security coordination officers and agency security officers. Emphasis has been placed on fully staffing those countries or regions where the safety and security of United Nations personnel is most at risk. There are currently 114 field security coordination officers (including 14 posts funded on an extrabudgetary basis) and 200 locally recruited support staff deployed throughout the world to assist 150 designated officials and the security management teams of senior representatives of United Nations agencies and programmes. A similar number of security officers are deployed in the field by United Nations agencies and programmes. These well-qualified officers continually assess threats and risks and conduct security briefings and training sessions, enormously strengthening security awareness and readiness. Due to limitations in their number, some field security coordination officers are responsible for several duty stations in a particular region.

19. To facilitate a consistent standard of staffing within the overall United Nations field security management system, United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, have sought the advice of the

Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator advice on over 300 candidates for security posts. At its meeting in Vienna in July 2003, the Inter-Agency Security Management Network working group on security further requested the Office of the Security Coordinator to continue developing a roster of potential field security officers and to consider the possible use of donor funding in order to develop a more elaborate methodology for assessing competency in recruitment and selection.

20. Because crises are often rapid in onset and unpredictable, it will always be difficult to respond to new field security needs within the resources available under the regular budget. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, working in close consultation with United Nations agencies and programmes as well as with designated officials, determines where and how extrabudgetary contributions made to the Trust Fund for Security of Staff Members of the United Nations System might be used most effectively.

21. In the past year, the Trust Fund has been used to fund training activities and to enable the United Nations to provide increased security coverage at short notice in areas of increased risk. Most recently, the Trust Fund has financed the establishment of a United Nations security operations information centre in Iraq, as well as the short-term recruitment of a number of additional field security officers, including communication equipment, vehicles and associated local support. Similar urgent, non-forecast and presumably temporary measures may become necessary in other countries.

22. As occurred in June and July in Liberia, the need to evacuate United Nations personnel can arise suddenly and with very little notice, which tested the viability of the existing arrangements and exposed inherent weaknesses in them. Further consideration is therefore being given to augmenting existing security and evacuation arrangements, including the establishment of standby arrangements with national authorities for use of their civil and military resources for such purposes.

23. As at 31 July 2003, contributions to the Trust Fund totalling about \$1.27 million had been received from the following Member States: Monaco (\$10,000), Netherlands (\$495,000), Poland (\$10,000), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (\$449,000) and United States of America (\$303,000).

24. Apart from the above-mentioned direct contributions to the Trust Fund, additional funds totalling about \$4 million were generated by the following Member States through United Nations consolidated appeals: Canada (\$980,000), Netherlands (\$919,000), Sweden (\$703,000) and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (\$1,436,000). Some funds obtained from consolidated appeals are utilized to deploy additional field security officers to meet minimum operating security standards. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator coordinates with the implementing partners to ensure that funds are utilized expeditiously.

V. Accountability

25. The Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report entitled "Inter-organizational security measures: framework for accountability for the United Nations field security management system" (A/57/365), as requested in section VIII of Assembly resolution 56/255 of

24 December 2001. The report, which was prepared by a working group of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network and approved by the Chief Executives Board, identifies all actors of the United Nations security management system, outlines the responsibilities of each and sets out a number of mechanisms to ensure accountability.

26. The Inter-Agency Security Management Network has subsequently encouraged all concerned to ensure that the roles and responsibilities set out in the accountability framework are reflected in job descriptions, terms of reference and performance appraisals. Most United Nations agencies and programmes have prepared specific security policy statements along the lines of those set out in the accountability framework. Agencies are now submitting these policy statements to their governing bodies as required. The Network has also reviewed and approved a common checklist for use by the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator in conducting and reporting on compliance visits.

27. A Secretary-General's bulletin defining the functions, structure and organization of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (see *ibid.*, para. 6) will be finalized in consultation with all concerned, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

VI. Minimum operating security standards

28. Over the past year, United Nations agencies and programmes, working with the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator and designated officials, have continued their efforts to reduce the level of risk to which United Nations personnel are exposed. The emphasis placed on implementing the minimum operating security standards, which are verifiable standards for security planning, training, telecommunications and equipment that correspond to assessed threats and risks, has served to improve readiness, enhance awareness, reinforce accountability and reduce exposure among United Nations staff members worldwide. Of the 150 duty stations, 90 per cent are now reporting either full or partial compliance with the standards.

29. Some United Nations agencies and programmes were more prepared than others at the inception of the minimum operating security standards, and several required additional time to marshal the resources needed for full compliance. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator and designated officials will continue to work closely with those United Nations agencies and programmes encountering difficulties so as to ensure that any remaining shortcomings are prioritized and addressed as quickly as possible.

30. To facilitate implementation of the minimum operating security standards, the Office of the Security Coordinator has conducted eight formal compliance missions since January 2003, with 22 more scheduled to take place by year's end. These missions are actively tracked by the Inter-Agency Security Management Network and the concerned United Nations agencies and programmes and have benefited from the full and willing cooperation in the field by designated officials and their colleagues.

31. Shortages of telecommunication equipment due to the failure by some Governments to provide import clearances continue to frustrate the implementation

of the minimum operating security standards in some countries. This remains a serious concern for the health and safety of staff members.

VII. Security training programmes

32. In order to ensure that all security personnel are properly briefed before their deployment, over the past year a three-day orientation and training programme for all newly recruited field security coordination officers has been developed. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator has also provided 12 training sessions to designated officials and members of security management teams. An additional 40 duty stations are scheduled to receive training by 31 December 2003. Two regional workshops were organized where security officers received updates and continuity training and exchanged information on risks, threats and new techniques. Two additional regional workshops are planned to take place before 1 November 2003.

33. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator continues to service United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as other departments and offices of the Secretariat, by conducting or participating in security training. During the reporting period, 10 such training programmes were carried out, involving the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Volunteers, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Staff College. In November 2002, the United Nations Security Coordinator participated in a workshop of humanitarian coordinators sponsored by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

34. An initiative developed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator to provide country-specific security training for humanitarian staff working in high-risk areas was completed during the past year. Related training-of-trainers workshops were conducted in Nairobi in June 2003.

35. Joint efforts are continuing to bring security awareness training directly to all civilian staff members of the United Nations system. An interactive CD-ROM course entitled "Basic security in the field: staff safety, health and welfare" has been developed as a collaborative effort by the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, UNHCR and other United Nations agencies and programmes, and is available in English and French. Approximately 6,000 copies were distributed to United Nations agencies, programmes and funds for further distribution to their respective staff. The CD-ROM has also been installed on the Intranet and Extranet web sites of the Office of the Security Coordinator, which allows staff members with computer access to complete the course at home or from their workplace. Thanks to a contribution by the Government of Japan to the Trust Fund, Arabic and Spanish versions of the CD-ROM are being produced and should be available by the end of 2003. The response from staff regarding the course has been extremely positive.

36. In response to a further proposal by the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, a second CD-ROM course focusing on enhancing the security skills of staff operating "deep" in the field is being developed. This programme will contain expanded material on communication, first aid, methods of dealing with military or militia forces and child soldiers and other pertinent topics.

VIII. Stress management

37. The psycho-social well-being of staff members who serve in the field continues to be a matter of paramount concern among all components of the United Nations security management system. A great deal of emphasis is being placed on providing both preventive training and relief. In response to practical concerns raised from the field, the stress management programme over the past year has been broadened to encompass various issues of importance to staff. Examples include anger management, conflict resolution, team-building, loss and grief, communication skills and substance abuse disorders. The stress counselling unit of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator is currently developing a needs-assessment questionnaire in order to identify and meet more systematically the welfare needs of staff in the field. A monitoring evaluation procedure is also being developed in order to determine the effectiveness and relevance of the programmes conducted by the stress counselling unit, as well as the adequacy of the services it delivers.

38. Staff counselling and traumatic incident stress management call for early response, concerted action and good inter-agency communication. In order to achieve those goals, three mental health professionals have been recruited over the past 12 months to reinforce the stress counselling unit. This brings the total number of available staff counsellors to four, making the unit now fully operational.

39. The stress counselling unit works in close cooperation with staff counsellors assigned to peacekeeping missions and to United Nations agencies and programmes, including UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF. The unit addresses any mental health-related issues and responds to traumatic incidents system-wide. The increased number of counsellors available to the United Nations system will provide a more professional and comprehensive approach to traumatic stress management, as well as an integrated response to staff needs. In view of its central role in the health, productivity and morale of staff in the field, many of whom work under enormous pressure and risk, the adequacy of the stress management programme will be kept under constant review.

IX. Security collaboration between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations

40. Throughout the past year, the degree of collaboration on security management between the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations has increased significantly. On 19 August 2002, the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator issued a set of guidelines entitled "United Nations/NGO security collaboration", designed to provide for greater interaction, sharing of resources and training capacity and to promote common security interests and ground rules for those United Nations agencies, programmes and funds which are working in association with non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations. Since the distribution of those guidelines, the awareness on the part of security management teams of the need to work more closely with non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations at their duty stations has risen greatly. During the reporting period the level of collaboration, support and liaison of field security coordination officers with both non-governmental and

intergovernmental organizations increased markedly. In Iraq, for example, the United Nations security information operations centre provides up-to-date security information and advice to the NGO community. Members of NGOs meet regularly with designated officials and field security coordination officers and attend security awareness training sessions and briefings in a variety of other countries. These activities firmly establish security as an integral aspect of NGO programmes and reduce the security risks and threats they face.

X. Observations and recommendations

41. While many factors outside the control of the Organization will continue to influence the level of threats and risk to United Nations personnel, the fact that fatalities have decreased significantly over the past years gives cause for optimism that efforts under way to strengthen the United Nations security management system are on the right track. Continued emphasis on the implementation of the minimum operating security standards and an expansion of the scope of security and stress management training will serve to further reduce risks.

42. Notwithstanding the best efforts of the United Nations, there are instances in which the efforts of the Organization are being frustrated. For example, in some countries international organizations continue to encounter difficulty obtaining permission to import communication equipment. This remains a serious concern for the health and safety of staff members and the Secretary-General appeals to all Member States that have implemented such restrictions to lift them immediately in the interest of the safety and security of staff.

43. The implementation of preventive risk management continues to be one of the most effective means of protecting staff. As a result of security and stress management training, staff members are better informed and more security-conscious, which allows them to more safely fulfil their mandates in hazardous areas. To that end, the Secretary-General reiterates his appeal to all Member States to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Security of Staff Members of the United Nations System so as to ensure the continuity of the security and stress management training programmes.

44. Although staff are certainly better prepared to operate amid the risks that often accompany human suffering, the number of security incidents taking place and their associated costs remain far too high. In addition to the considerable trauma that is often inflicted on United Nations staff members as a result of such incidents, it is the most vulnerable populations in the affected areas who pay the highest price due to the reduced effectiveness — and in extreme cases the absence — of a United Nations presence. Accordingly, the Secretary-General will continue to seek all means possible to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations security management system, paying particular attention to identifying and closing gaps in coverage as well as to ensuring that policies, procedures and resource allocations are kept constantly in line with risks and threats, which are in themselves unpredictable, indiscriminate and constantly changing.

45. Of the 196 deaths of United Nations civilian staff due to malicious acts prior to 30 June 2003, only 24 perpetrators have been apprehended. The

Secretary-General is dismayed that there has often been unwillingness to provide timely information in the event of the arrest or detention of locally recruited United Nations personnel and that very few countries have investigated fully attacks or threats against international and locally recruited United Nations and associated staff members or held perpetrators accountable under international and national law. While the United Nations will continue to enhance the security management system for the benefit of its personnel, it must be constantly borne in mind that host Governments have the primary responsibility for the security of United Nations and other humanitarian personnel.

46. In paragraph 25 of its resolution 57/155, the General Assembly recognized the need for a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations, at both the headquarters and the field levels, and requested the United Nations system, as well as Member States, to take all appropriate measures to that end. The Secretary-General advises the Assembly that an evaluation of all aspects of the United Nations security management system has been undertaken. The findings of this evaluation are being reviewed and will form the basis of a separate report which will be submitted in due course.

Annex I

**Civilian personnel who have lost their lives during the
reporting period (1 July 2002-30 June 2003)**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Nationality/agency</i>	<i>Date/place of incident</i>	<i>Cause</i>	<i>Legal action</i>
Hook, Iain	United Kingdom/UNRWA (Department for International Development consultant)	22 November 2002/Jenin Camp, West Bank	Gunshot	No
Al-Tahrawi, Osama Hasan	Palestine/UNRWA	6 December 2002/Bureij Camp, Gaza Strip	Explosion	No
Qandil, Ahlam Rizig	Palestine/UNRWA	6 December 2002/Bureij Camp, Gaza Strip	Gunshot	No
Asleibi, Majed Hussein	Palestine/UNRWA	7 February 2003/Khan Younis Refugee Camp	Explosion	No
Nzelenga, Prosper	Democratic Republic of the Congo/UNDP	6 June 2003/Kinshasa	Gunshot	No

Annex II

Consolidated list of staff members under arrest, detained or missing and with respect to whom the United Nations, the specialized agencies and related organizations have been unable to exercise fully their right to protection (as at 31 May 2003)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Place and date of incident</i>
Ahman, Mahmoud Hussein	UNRWA	Missing in Lebanon since 22 March 1983; reportedly detained by militias or unknown elements.
Collet, Alec	UNRWA	Detained in Lebanon by militias or unknown elements since 25 March 1985.
Rukindo, Fulgence	Human rights field operation in Rwanda	Detained in Kibuyu, Rwanda, since 17 June 1995.
Sibomana, J. Bapiste	Human rights field operation in Rwanda	Detained in Rwanda since March 1997.
Salamer Al Jundi, Khaled	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 22 June 2001.
Nyamoya, Gertrude	WHO	Detained in Bujumbura, Burundi, since 21 December 2001.
Abed El-Ahmar, Nidal	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 10 January 2002.
Ghabax, Jamal	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 8 February 2002.
Atallah, Azzem	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 13 April 2002.
Busbkar, Shadi Fawzi	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 13 April 2002.
Badee, Khalil	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 16 May 2002.
Jawabreh, Rami	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 28 May 2002.
Diatsuka, Isabelle Masika	WHO	Detained in Kigali then in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo, since 17 June 2002.
Ighbariyeh, Mohammad	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 19 June 2002.
Khaled, Rida	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 3 August 2002.
Atallah, Nahed	UNRWA	Detained in the Gaza Strip since 14 August 2002.
Hashhash, Ibraim Abu	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 3 September 2002.
Latifah, Mohammad Abu	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 23 September 2002.
Zahrán, Raed	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 25 September 2002.
Daoud, Nidal	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 25 September 2002.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Place and date of incident</i>
Ataya, Ammer	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 3 October 2002.
Aqel, Ziyad	UNRWA	Detained in the Gaza Strip since 9 October 2002.
Rabee, Iyad	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 10 October 2002.
Itwel, Mohammad	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 13 November 2002.
Raei, Aref Al	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 20 November 2002.
Joudah, Emad	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 22 November 2002.
Khatib, Mohammad Al	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 28 January 2003.
Fayyad, Ibrahim	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 17 February 2003.
Hroub, Maher Al	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 24 March 2003.
Weres, Tesfalem	UNHCR	Detained in Asmara, since 4 April 2003.
El-Qeeq, Mansour	UNRWA	Detained in the Gaza Strip since 11 April 2003.
Tawil, Islam Reyad	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 29 April 2003.
Abdulkadir, Amir	UNHCR	Detained in Tesseney, Eritrea, since 16 May 2003.
Al Wehaidi, Ammar	UNRWA	Detained in the West Bank since 10 June 2003.



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Operational activities for development: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Raising public awareness of and support for South-South cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/263, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to carry out a study through coordination of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, and to submit to its at its fifty-eighth session, findings with concrete proposals to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation and to raise public awareness on the importance and contribution of South-South cooperation with respect to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The report was also to highlight the value added and implications of the proposed international decade on South-South cooperation and the United Nations day for South-South cooperation.

The report finds that international decades declared by the General Assembly have helped to focus international attention of policy makers at the national, regional and international levels on issues of economic, social and political importance. The report concludes that the proposed United Nations day for South-South cooperation and/or an international decade for South-South cooperation would, on a South-South basis, present new opportunities to effectively mobilize the increasing human and financial resources in the South towards the objective of meeting internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

* A/58/150.

** The submission of the present report was delayed in order to allow sufficient time for the clearing departments to review and approve it.



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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, by which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, through coordination of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and in consultation with Member States and relevant organizations and agencies, to carry out a study with a view to promoting public awareness of the importance and contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation with respect to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and, in that context, to make concrete proposals to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation and to raise such public awareness, inter alia, on the value added and implications of the proposed international decade on South-South cooperation and the United Nations day for South-South cooperation and to submit the findings of the study to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

2. The report considers how an international decade and a United Nations day could promote and facilitate South-South cooperation in realizing internationally agreed development goals, especially those set out in the Millennium Declaration. It takes into account Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, and 1989/84 of 24 May 1989, on guidelines for international decades on economic and social fields. In those resolutions, the Council recognized the contribution that such observances could make to the promotion of international cooperation and understanding and set out relevant criteria and guidelines.

II. Review of experience

3. Since its founding, the United Nations has declared days, weeks, years and decades for the purpose of focusing world attention on issues in which the Organization has interest and commitment. Generally, the United Nations calls upon Member States and other organizations to mark such days, weeks or decades in ways that reflect their interest and priorities.

4. With regard to decades, the broadest in scope have been the United Nations Development Decades, the first of which was declared in the 1960s. Successive decades have been declared on ending colonialism, promoting disarmament, combating racism and racial discrimination and on the industrial development of Africa. The 1970s saw the declaration of decades on ocean exploration, women and transport and communications in Africa. In the 1980s, the General Assembly declared decades to mobilize international action on drinking water supply and sanitation, disabled persons, drug abuse and cultural development. In the 1990s, decades were declared on natural disaster reduction, indigenous people, human rights education and eradication of poverty. Since the turn of the century, international decades have been declared on combating malaria, promoting a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world, literacy and education for all and sustainable development.

5. The Economic and Social Council Guidelines for international decades in economic and social fields stipulate that the subject should:

- (a) Be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;
- (b) Be of priority concern in the political, economic, social, cultural, humanitarian or human rights fields;
- (c) Require long-term action at the international or regional level and at the national level;
- (d) Be expected to produce results, which would not otherwise be achieved;
- (e) Be initiated only if the United Nations system has the substantive, administrative and financial capacity to play an effective role in implementation;
- (f) Be presented along with a draft programme of action containing well-defined objectives and activities, leading to clearly identifiable results, and providing for the establishment of national committees or other mechanisms for the purpose of mobilizing public support and carrying out activities connected with the decade.

6. The declaration of United Nations days, of which there are now over 60, has tended to follow custom in the absence of explicit guidelines from intergovernmental bodies. International days declared by the General Assembly cover a wide range of topics, but their general intent is to focus attention and action on important issues. International days are usually timed to commemorate a significant event in history. For example, United Nations Day (24 October) recalls the coming into force of the Charter of the United Nations and World Environment Day (5 June) recalls the opening day of the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972. However, not all international days mark events in United Nations history: the International Day of Cooperatives is observed on the first Saturday in July to mark the 1995 centenary of the International Cooperative Alliance, an umbrella group of organizations comprising some 760 million members in 100 countries. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October), declared in 1992, gave the imprimatur of the United Nations to an observance initiated by non-governmental organizations.

7. United Nations days and international decades declared by the General Assembly have attracted increased attention by the public, policy makers and analysts to their subjects. In most cases, there have also been increased activities at the national and regional levels, often with civil society playing a key role. While deep-seated economic, social and political problems have not been solved because of international decades or days, they have undoubtedly received added attention, especially from policy makers at the national, regional and international levels.

8. For example, since 16 December 1977, when the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/142 proclaiming International Women's Day, considerable progress has been made for women in developed and developing countries alike. The United Nations Association of Canada reports that, in many countries, provisions guaranteeing the enjoyment of human rights without discrimination on the basis of gender have been included in constitutions; legal literacy and other measures have been introduced to alert women to their rights and to ensure their access to those rights; the world community has identified violence against women as a clear violation of women's rights; and incorporation of gender perspectives into regular

programmes and policies has become a priority at the United Nations and in many States. It is recognized that much remains to be done in order for women to achieve full equality with men, but women's voices are being heard. International Women's Day (8 March) provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the achievement of women and to highlight the needs and concerns of women on national, regional and global agendas.

9. World Press Freedom Day (3 May), established by the General Assembly in December 1993 (decision 48/432), serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to the freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists risk death or jail to bring the daily news to their readers. It is a day to assess the state of press freedom worldwide, and among other things, a day to remind Governments to respect their commitments to freedom of the press.

10. Universal Children's Day, the observance date of which varies from country to country, was declared by the General Assembly in 1989 in order to promote children's welfare. The Day provides an occasion to remember that children need love and respect to grow to their full potential.

11. Likewise, the international decades focused on disabled persons, drinking water and sanitation and natural disaster prevention have been credited with important initiatives to map problems and significant activities to promote the acceptance of new attitudes, norms and standards.

12. Experience shows that declaring an international decade offers opportunities to mobilize international efforts towards an important objective, while establishing goals and targets to be met over a specified period of time. The advantage of declaring a United Nations day is that it annually draws the attention of the international community to a specific issue for unlimited period of time.

III. Rationale for a United Nations day and/or an international decade for South-South cooperation

13. There are three main reasons for the General Assembly to consider declaring a United Nations day and/or an international decade for South-South cooperation, the first being the need to consolidate the South-South agenda. Since the adoption, in 1978, of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,¹ the agenda for South-South cooperation has grown enormously. This has been reflected both in the proliferation of declarations and plans of action relevant to South-South cooperation and in the growing diversity and scope of efforts to use that modality. The emergence of a host of common challenges has contributed to this process. They include environmental pollution, drugs and arms trafficking, money-laundering, volatility of currency exchange rates, international debt, the need to ensure the safety of the international food trade, control of communicable diseases, trade negotiations of unprecedented scope and armed conflicts that have drained resources from development.

14. The capacity of developing countries to deal with this wide range of problems has also grown: a number of developing countries with advanced technological capabilities have emerged as hubs of South-South cooperation and their activities have become extremely diversified, ranging from agricultural extension work to space-based communications and cutting-edge biotechnologies. The number and

variety of stakeholders in South-South cooperation have also diversified and grown rapidly in recent years, with private sector and civil society organizations playing increasingly important roles. The post-cold-war move towards greater reliance on market forces has spawned a large number of initiatives aimed at regional economic integration, at shaping common standards and at creating mechanisms for cooperation. Within the United Nations system, the numerous examples of cost-efficiency resulting from South-South cooperation have made the modality increasingly important. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1992/41 of 30 July 1992, called upon all parties in the development effort to make concerted, planned and vigorous endeavours to benefit from utilization of the capacities of developing countries. It called upon all agencies in the United Nations system to give it first consideration in their programmes of technical assistance. Recent international forums, including the South Summit, held in Havana, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels, the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, have all highlighted the importance of South-South cooperation.

15. A second major reason for declaring a United Nations day and/or an international decade on South-South cooperation is the urgent need to meet the challenge that globalization has posed to the economic and social development of many developing countries. In the third year after the Millennium Summit adopted a set of developmental goals to be achieved by 2015, it is clear that a number of countries are not on track to meet them. Most of those countries face deep-seated structural obstacles to development. Some obstacles, such as barriers to international markets and unsustainably high levels of international debt, can be dealt with in cooperation with developed countries. Others, such as those posed by a country's size and location, vulnerability to natural disasters or rampant diseases such as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or malaria, can often be best dealt with in cooperation with other developing countries that have experience in dealing with such problems. Similar economic, cultural and data systems in recipient and assisting developing countries often facilitate technology transfer. Costs are invariably lower, especially if there is need for long-term support, as is often the case in dealing with basic structural deficits. An additional benefit is the sense of solidarity inherent in South-South cooperation that can contribute to firm local ownership. Such South-South cooperation, especially with triangular financial support from developed countries, may be one of the most effective ways of building momentum towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. South-South cooperation may also be the best route to building the basic capacity in governance and economic, social and legal infrastructure necessary to underpin accelerated development. A United Nations day and/or an international decade would frame and focus the help or offers of assistance from the more advanced developing countries to the less developed. In doing so, it would perforce give South-South cooperation a strategic orientation and thrust.

16. No existing mechanism is capable of mobilizing sufficient support for South-South cooperation in the contexts described above. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of 77 are the main bodies active in promoting South-South cooperation, but their efforts are not yet comprehensive. The General Assembly deals with South-South cooperation mainly through the biennial meetings of its High-level Committee for the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing

Countries. The Committee receives reports prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of UNDP, its substantive secretariat, on the basis of information gathered from focal points at the national level and with United Nations agencies and programmes, and from keyword searches on the Internet. The reports have indicated the existence of a major information gap in relation to South-South cooperation: most Governments are unaware of existing capacities in the South and the system of focal points needs to be energized. The third main reason for declaring a United Nations day or an international decade is that it would provide an opportunity for various actors to work towards solidifying the information base available to all stakeholders in South-South cooperation and energizing the focal points system.

17. An important consideration in the decision to declare a United Nations day and/or an international decade on South-South cooperation is feasibility. How effective will it be in meeting existing challenges? The answer to that question will depend on the actual performance of Governments and other stakeholders, but there is little doubt that the proposed decade on South-South cooperation would fill the following criteria set out by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council:

(a) It would be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and is of priority concern to many Governments;

(b) The issues at hand require long-term action at the international and/or regional and national levels;

(c) A decade is expected to produce results, which would not otherwise be achieved.

18. The criteria outlined above in regard to international decades apply equally to the proposal for a United Nations day for South-South cooperation.

19. The elements of a substantive programme of action containing well-defined objectives and activities laid out in the Millennium Development Goals and the results identified therein would be the subject for increased South-South collaboration. Given the current widespread support for South-South cooperation among developing countries, it should not be difficult to mobilize public support for the activities to be carried out in marking the day and/or the decade.

IV. Marking the United Nations day and/or the international decade for South-South cooperation

20. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action was marked during the thirteenth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in May 2003. If declared to begin in 2005, the international decade would provide immediate opportunities to initiate the more action-oriented agenda for South-South cooperation called for by the South Summit and the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its thirteenth session.

21. The rationale and objectives of the Decade would be to:

(a) Take stock of the state of South-South cooperation, bringing into focus major obstacles, the new and emerging capacities of developing countries, their partnerships and trends affecting South-South cooperation and, on the basis of that stocktaking, to consolidate the agenda for action around the strategic goals of developing countries;

(b) Provide coherent and sustained support for developing countries that need it in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

22. The rationale and objective of the proposed day for South-South cooperation would be to:

(a) Provide an annual occasion to publicize South-South cooperation and to highlight trends, as well as specific developments;

(b) Call the attention of policy makers and the broader public to the importance of South-South cooperation and its potential.

23. The annual United Nations day for South-South cooperation could be celebrated on 12 September, the date on which the General Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

V. Activities and outcomes

24. The activities of both the international decade and the United Nations day on South-South cooperation would be centred on building public awareness on South-South cooperation and using the growing capacities in the South to meet internationally agreed development goals through the work of the established network of technical cooperation among developing countries focal points in national Governments. The network has not been sufficiently active over the years, mainly because it has been given few incentives to undertake meaningful tasks. In promoting action-oriented programmes relevant to the United Nations day for South-South cooperation and/or the international decade, in addition to mobilizing financial and other resources the national technical cooperation among developing countries focal points would play a lead role in the carrying out of activities, such as the organization of:

(a) Workshops and discussion forums;

(b) Public lectures and presentations;

(c) Press conferences;

(d) The launching of television documentaries and publications;

(e) Virtual conferences and e-mail campaigns;

(f) The design, implementation and monitoring of collaborative programmes.

25. With regard to the day, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries would set the overall annual theme in consultation with the

bureau of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

26. The technical cooperation among developing countries focal points in national Governments would act as coordinators for the day and/or the decade at the national level. The organization of events for either event or for both at the national level and at United Nations Headquarters would engage non-governmental organizations, businesses and educational institutions that would set the agenda on the basis of their priorities.

VI. Monitoring impact

27. The biennial meetings of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries could monitor progress during the decade on the basis of a report submitted by the Special Unit. The Committee is scheduled to meet next in 2005, the first year of the proposed decade. Its meeting in 2015 would be in the year following the end of the decade and its conclusions would feed into the assessment of the Millennium Development Goals.

28. Progress reports on each United Nations day for South-South cooperation could be coordinated by the Special Unit and submitted to the General Assembly through the High-level Committee and the Economic and Social Council on a biennial basis.

VII. Recommendation

29. Based on the foregoing review, it is recommended that the General Assembly consider declaring: (a) A United Nations day for South-South cooperation, to be held each year on 12 September, the date on which the General Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; and/or (b) an international decade on South-South cooperation, beginning in 2005 and ending in 2015.

Notes

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.



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**Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of
the United Nations and on the Strengthening of
the Role of the Organization**

Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 57/25 of 19 November 2002. It highlights the measures for further improvement of the procedures and working methods of the Security Council and its sanctions committees related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions; reviews the capacity and modalities within the Secretariat for implementing the intergovernmental mandates and for addressing the main findings, including recommendations of the ad hoc expert group meeting on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/53/312, chap. IV) and also reviews recent developments related to the role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.

* A/58/150.



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I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 57/25 of 19 November 2002, entitled "Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions". In the resolution, the General Assembly, *inter alia*:

(a) Renewed its invitation to the Security Council to consider the establishment of further mechanisms or procedures, as appropriate, for consultations as early as possible under Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations with third States which are or may be confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Council under Chapter VII of the Charter, with regard to a solution of those problems, including appropriate ways and means for increasing the effectiveness of its methods and procedures applied in the consideration of requests by the affected States for assistance;

(b) Welcomed the measures taken by the Security Council since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/51 of 11 December 1995, most recently the note by the President of the Council of 15 January 2002 (S/2002/70), whereby the members of the Council agreed to extend the mandate of the informal working group of the Council established in 2000 (see S/2000/319) to develop general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of United Nations sanctions, looked forward to the adoption of the proposed outcome document of the working group, in particular the provisions thereof regarding the issues of the unintended impact of sanctions and assistance to States in implementing sanctions, and strongly recommended that the Council continue its efforts to enhance further the effectiveness and transparency of the sanctions committees, to streamline their working procedures and to facilitate access to them by representatives of States that find themselves confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of sanctions;

(c) Invited the Security Council, its sanctions committees and the Secretariat to continue to ensure, as appropriate, that (i) both pre-assessment reports and ongoing assessment reports include as part of their analysis the likely and actual unintended impact of the sanctions on third States and recommend ways in which the negative impact of sanctions can be mitigated; (ii) sanctions committees provide opportunities for third States affected by sanctions to brief them on the unintended impact of sanctions they are experiencing and on assistance needed by them to mitigate the negative impact of sanctions; (iii) the Secretariat continues to provide, upon request, advice and information to third States to help them to pursue means to mitigate the unintended impact of sanctions, for example, on invoking Article 50 of the Charter for consultation with the Security Council; (iv) where economic sanctions have had severe effects on third States, the Security Council is able to request the Secretary-General to consider appointing a special representative or dispatching, as necessary, fact-finding missions on the ground to undertake necessary assessments and to identify, as appropriate, possible ways of assistance; (v) the Security Council is able, in the context of situations referred to in subparagraph (c) (iv) above, to consider establishing working groups to consider such situations;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to pursue the implementation of resolutions 50/51, 51/208, 52/162, 53/107, 54/107, 55/157 and 56/87 and to ensure that the competent units within the Secretariat develop the adequate capacity and appropriate modalities, technical procedures and guidelines to continue, on a regular basis, to collate and coordinate information about international assistance available to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions, to continue developing a possible methodology for assessing the adverse consequences actually incurred by third States and to explore innovative and practical measures of assistance to the affected third States;

(e) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General containing a summary of the deliberations and main findings of the ad hoc expert group meeting on developing a methodology for assessing the consequences incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures and on exploring innovative and practical measures of international assistance to the affected third States (A/53/312), and renewed its invitation to States and relevant international organizations within and outside the United Nations system which had not yet done so to provide their views regarding the report of the ad hoc expert group meeting;

(f) Took note of the most recent report of the Secretary-General (ibid.), in particular, of his views on the deliberations and main findings, including the recommendations, of the ad hoc expert group on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, as well as the views of States, the organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other international organizations, as contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/54/383 and Add.1 and A/55/295 and Add.1);

(g) Reaffirmed the important role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts of the international community and the United Nations system on behalf of States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States;

(h) Took note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2000/32 of 28 July 2000, to continue its consideration of the question of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, invited the Council, at its organizational session for 2003, to make appropriate arrangements for that purpose within its programme of work for 2003 and decided to transmit the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/57/165 and Add.1), together with the relevant background materials, to the Council at its substantive session of 2003;

(i) Invited the organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other international organizations, regional organizations and Member States to address more specifically and directly, where appropriate, the special economic problems of third States affected by sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter and, for that purpose, to consider improving procedures for consultations to maintain a constructive dialogue with such States, including

through regular and frequent meetings as well as, where appropriate, special meetings between the affected third States and the donor community, with the participation of United Nations agencies and other international organizations;

(j) Requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

2. The present report has been prepared in compliance with the request contained in paragraph 12 of the resolution (see para. 1 (j) above).

II. Measures for further improvement of the procedures and working methods of the Security Council and its sanctions committees related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

3. Pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council of 15 January 2002 (S/2002/70), members of the Security Council agreed that Ambassador Martin Belinga-Eboutou (Cameroon) would serve until 31 December 2003 as Chairman of the informal working group of the Council to develop general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of United Nations sanctions. The working group held several formal and informal meetings in order to finalize its proposed outcome document. The document, based on the work of the group since it was established in April 2000, remains under active consideration, with focus being placed on those issues where agreement has yet to be reached, in particular regarding the duration of sanctions.

4. At its 4713th meeting, held on 25 February 2003, concerning general issues relating to sanctions (S/PV.4713), the Security Council heard a briefing by the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Hans Dahlgren, on the results of the Stockholm Process on the Implementation of Targeted Sanctions. The findings were presented in a booklet entitled "Making Targeted Sanctions Effective — Guidelines for the Implementation of UN Policy Options" and were the result of a process initiated by the Swedish Government that had lasted over a year and had engaged government officials, non-government organizations, the United Nations Secretariat, regional organizations and international institutions, as well as academics and experts from various areas with expertise in the field of sanctions implementation. At the meeting, members of the Security Council acknowledged that targeted sanctions continue to be a useful tool to focus pressure on individuals or entities while minimizing the unintended impact on civilian populations and third States.

5. In accordance with paragraph 10 of its resolution 1483 (2003) of 22 May 2003, the Security Council decided that, with the exception of prohibitions related to the sale or supply to Iraq of arms and related materiel other than those arms and related materiel required by the Authority, as referred to in the resolution, to serve the purposes of that resolution and other related resolutions, all prohibitions related to trade with Iraq and the provision of financial or economic resources to Iraq established by resolution 661 (1990) and subsequent relevant resolutions, including resolution 778 (1992) of 2 October 1992, shall no longer apply.

III. Review of the capacity and modalities of the Secretariat for implementing the intergovernmental mandates and recommendations of the ad hoc expert group meeting on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

6. The Secretary-General has taken note of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 57/25 (see para. 1 (d) above). The arrangements that were put in place in the Secretariat in 1996, as described in the report of the Secretary-General of that year (A/51/317, paras. 4-11), as well as in the 1997 and 2002 reports (A/52/308, para. 5, and A/57/165, para. 9, respectively), continue to apply. It should be noted that since those arrangements were based on "existing resources", the overall budgetary resources currently available to the departments concerned would have to be maintained in the future.

7. It is also understood that the existing arrangements for interdepartmental cooperation do not preclude further cooperation between the relevant departments, as appropriate, and that the setting in motion of the functions contemplated in several subparagraphs of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 50/51 depends on a request by either the Security Council, its organs or interested Member States.

8. The Secretary-General has provided, and will continue to provide, his full support for the intergovernmental deliberations on issues under review, as well as his views and recommendations, as required, in order to ensure the implementation of relevant intergovernmental mandates in a timely and efficient manner.

IV. Views provided by Governments and relevant international organizations regarding the report of the ad hoc expert group meeting and related issues of international assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

9. In accordance with paragraphs 5 and 9 of General Assembly resolution 57/25 (see paras. 1 (e) and (i) above), States and relevant international organizations within and outside the United Nations system that had not yet done so were invited to provide their views regarding the report of the ad hoc expert group meeting on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, as contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/53/312, chap. IV). The communications on the matter received in 1999 and 2000 from Governments and relevant international organizations and institutions within and outside the United Nations system were summarized in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/54/383 and Add.1 and A/55/295 and Add.1, respectively). Since then, no additional comments have been received.

V. Recent developments related to the role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

10. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 57/25 (see para. 1 (g) above), the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination have continued to play their respective roles in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.

General Assembly

11. In its resolution 56/110 of 14 December 2001, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution on economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans at its fifty-eighth session. Consequently, the item, to be considered on a biennial basis, has been inscribed on the agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the Assembly.

Economic and Social Council

12. By a note dated 9 May 2003 on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (E/2003/63), the Secretary-General drew the attention of the members of the Economic and Social Council to General Assembly resolution 57/25, in particular to paragraph 8 (see para. 1 (h) above), in which the Assembly decided to transmit the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/57/165 and Add.1).

13. At its substantive session of 2003, held in Geneva from 30 June to 25 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council adopted its decision 2003/309 of 25 July, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2003/63) and the report transmitted by the General Assembly (A/57/165 and Add.1).

Committee for Programme and Coordination

14. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, at the 6th meeting of its forty-third session, held in New York from 9 June to 9 July 2003, considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2002 (E/2003/55), which included, at the request of the Committee, a section on assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations. It was noted in the overview report that, as reflected in previous reports of the Secretary-General, the relevant components of the United Nations system and related organizations, including the international financial institutions, were fully aware of the special needs and situations of the countries invoking Article 50. In presenting the overview report to the Committee, it was noted that, regrettably, countries invoking Article 50 had received little relief so far. It was suggested that the principal governing bodies, i.e., the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, might therefore wish to consider

ways and means of mobilizing resources and providing greater relief for the affected countries.

15. In its conclusions and recommendations on the foregoing matter, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that CEB play a role in better coordinating the analysis of the problems of the countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter, and the development of new methodologies to identify the damage to affected States and new mechanisms to determine the appropriate compensation for them (A/58/16, para. 581).



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**Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations
and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization**

Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report outlines the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat in 2003 to reduce the backlog in the publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, including consideration of alternative courses of action relating to the *Repertory*. For the *Repertoire*, it also proposes a two-track approach, to address current developments in the procedure and practice of the Council and at the same time expedite elimination of the backlog. The General Assembly is invited, in section IV, in the context of the approval of the budget for the biennium 2004-2005, to take action in the light of the information presented.

* A/58/150.

** The present report was submitted after the established deadline to reflect the latest information concerning the preparation and publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and due to delays in clearances from other departments.



I. Introduction

1. The present progress report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 57/24 of 19 November 2002, in which the Assembly took note of paragraph 57 of the 2002 report of the Secretary-General (A/57/370), commended him for his continued efforts to reduce the backlog in the publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, and endorsed his efforts to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*.

II. *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*

A. Steps undertaken by the Secretariat to expedite the preparation of Supplements to the *Repertory*

1. Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory

2. Following the issuance of the 2002 report, the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory¹ held three meetings, inter alia, to review the status of the publication of volumes III and IV of Supplement No. 5 (1970-1978) and volumes I, II, IV and V of Supplement No. 6 (1979-1984); to review the preparation of volume III of Supplement No. 6 (1979-1984), of volumes I, II, IV, V and VI of Supplement No. 7 (1985-1988), of volumes IV and VI of Supplement No. 8 (1989-1994) and of volumes IV and VI of Supplement No. 9 (1995-1999); to review the implementation of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium; and to continue the inter-office dialogue on reviewing the working methods for the preparation of the *Repertory*.

(a) Review Committee of the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory

3. The Review Committee of the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory, consisting of representatives of the Office of Legal Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs and the respective coordinating and author departments, reviewed the remaining studies for volume VI of Supplement No. 7 and approved the volume for publication. It also reviewed a number of studies submitted for inclusion in volume III of Supplement No. 6, in volumes II, III, IV and V of Supplement No. 7, in volumes II, IV and VI of Supplement No. 8 and in volume IV of Supplement No. 9.

(b) Inter-office dialogue on reviewing the working methods for the preparation of the *Repertory*

4. In paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's 2002 report, it was stated that the Secretariat units participating in the preparation of the *Repertory* continued to review the efficiency of current working methods and to consider different options for improving productivity and increasing the *Repertory* Supplement production rate. At its meeting in December 2002, the Interdepartmental Committee agreed to establish a task force on alternative courses of action to consider the issues reflected in paragraphs 6 to 9 of the Secretary-General's 2002 report, to discuss in greater depth the various alternative courses of action and to prepare a comprehensive list of ideas on the matter for consideration by the Interdepartmental Committee. In January of 2003, the task force discussed the question of the placement of *Repertory* studies on the Internet and the question of the establishment of a central *Repertory*

section. At its meeting in March 2003, the Interdepartmental Committee approved the proposal of the task force on the placement of *Repertory* studies on the Internet. At its meeting in June 2003, the task force continued its discussion of the establishment of a central *Repertory* section, as well as of the other alternative courses of action mentioned below.

Placement of *Repertory* studies on the Internet

5. The Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, in cooperation with the Secretariat units participating in the Interdepartmental Committee, has prepared a central portal web site for the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, to be located on the main web site of the Organization. The portal site is organized to provide the user with links to a series of sub-pages devoted to individual articles. It is anticipated that the site will become operational by September 2003. The site will provide users of the *Repertory* with access to studies that have been finalized and approved by the Review Committee, but whose publication in print form may be delayed for a number of reasons, such as the need for the completion of all studies in a given volume or delays in the processing and printing of the relevant volume of the *Repertory*. This will serve as a stopgap measure towards the elimination of the backlog. Moreover, the site will include electronic versions of all studies thus far published in the *Repertory* in all languages in which they have been published. For that purpose, the Office of Legal Affairs has already digitized a major part of the Supplements to the *Repertory* so that they can be available for use through a searchable electronic database.

The establishment of a central *Repertory* section

6. In its report in March 2002 on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs (E/AC.51/2002/5), the Office of Internal Oversight Services made the recommendation that a central *Repertory* section be established. There was a discussion of this proposal in the Interdepartmental Committee from an administrative, institutional and budgetary standpoint. At that stage, the Committee could not arrive at a convincing rationale for the creation of a central *Repertory* section, on either a temporary or a permanent basis. The existence of other options, to be applied individually or in conjunction with one another, and tailored to the specific circumstances of individual Secretariat units, would seem to obviate the need for an institutional arrangement of such complexity. The Interdepartmental Committee deferred further consideration of this idea pending the decision of the General Assembly on the budget for 2004-2005, taking into account its obvious financial implications.

Other alternatives considered

7. The Committee discussed the possibility of pursuing numerous other courses of action to be taken either individually or in combination.

Parallel work to produce on schedule the most recent Supplement and to eliminate the backlog in remaining volumes of Supplements Nos. 7 to 9

8. Under this alternative, starting in 2005, two parallel tasks in each authoring unit would focus, on the one hand, on updating what then would consist of the most recent Supplement (No. 10) and, on the other hand, on backlogged volumes.

Focus on the elimination of the backlog in Article studies rather than volumes

9. Authoring units, for the remainder of their backlogged volumes, would identify priority Article studies within their volumes. Each priority Article study would be brought up to date, thus eliminating the backlog in that specific Article across the relevant Supplements, which would still be backlogged, prior to turning to the next priority Article study. This course of action could presumably accelerate the work by using efficiently the expertise acquired for the preparation of a study on a particular Article.

Develop programmes with academia

10. By this alternative, the Secretariat would develop partnerships with universities, whereby law students, under a special internship or externship programme and under the supervision of a faculty adviser, worked with staff to provide the initial research and draft of selected Article studies, resulting in reduced costs for external temporary assistance. It should be noted that readiness of some academic institutions for this kind of cooperation was expressed in response to an enquiry addressed to them by the Secretariat regarding their interest in taking over the preparation of the *Repertory*. While all the institutions thus approached declined to take over preparation, expressing the hope that it would be continued to be prepared by the United Nations, a number of them offered assistance for the work of the United Nations in this regard. It should be noted that the enquiry was addressed to them in the context of both the Secretary-General's proposal to discontinue the *Repertory*² and the recommendation of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization to encourage the Secretary-General in his continuous efforts to eliminate the backlog in the *Repertory*.³ The Committee, furthermore, reiterated its appreciation for the contribution of interns who worked on the *Repertory* under the existing United Nations internship programme.

Temporary reassignment of authoring and/or coordinating tasks

11. Depending on the alternative course(s) of action possibly decided upon, future work programmes may require some redistribution of tasks, on a case-by-case basis.

Change the system of editing and translation of studies from one based on volumes to one based on individual studies

12. The Committee also considered that, rather than process studies by completed volumes, individual studies should be edited and thereafter translated prior to the completion of a volume as a whole, thus making available to Member States the edited English, French and Spanish versions of the studies on the Internet.

13. In the Committee's view, the further elaboration of possible courses of action will need to await the decision of the General Assembly on the draft budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

B. Status of the *Repertory*

1. Preparation of Supplement No. 5 (1970-1978)

14. The 2002 report of the Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 13 that volume III of Supplement No. 5 would be published by the end of 2002. The volume

was issued in English in December 2002, and Supplement No. 5 has been completed.

2. Preparation of volumes II, III and IV of Supplement No. 6 (1979-1984)

(a) Volume II of Supplement No. 6

15. The 2002 report indicated in paragraph 18 that volume II of Supplement No. 6 had been submitted for processing and publication. It is anticipated that the volume will be published in English in 2004.

(b) Volume III of Supplement No. 6

16. The 2002 report indicated in paragraph 20 that the entire volume III would be submitted for processing and publication at the beginning of 2004.

17. The Review Committee reviewed several studies for the volume in 2003. The remaining studies will be completed by the Department of Political Affairs in 2003, and the entire volume will be submitted for processing and publication at the beginning of 2004.

(c) Volume IV of Supplement No. 6

18. The 2002 report indicated in paragraph 22 that volume IV of Supplement No. 6 had been submitted for processing and publication and would be published in English in September 2003. The volume was published in English in December 2002.

3. Preparation of volumes I, II, IV, V and VI of Supplement No. 7 (1985-1988)

(a) Volume I of Supplement No. 7

19. The 2002 report noted in paragraph 26 that work on volume I would commence during the 2004-2005 biennium if the resources requested for that purpose in the proposed programme budget were approved.

20. In early 2003 the Review Committee reviewed studies by the Office of Human Resources Management. The Department of Political Affairs has commenced work on its studies, and the Office of Legal Affairs will commence work on its studies in 2004. It is anticipated that the volume will be submitted for processing and publication in 2005/2006.

(b) Volume II of Supplement No. 7

21. The 2002 report noted in paragraph 32 that work had started on volume II of Supplement No. 7. Since then, several Secretariat units have submitted studies and others have commenced work on their studies for the volume. The Review Committee reviewed several studies for the volume in 2003. It is anticipated that volume II will be completed in 2005.

(c) Volume IV of Supplement No. 7

22. The 2002 report indicated in paragraph 28 that the Review Committee would review studies as they were finalized, and that volume IV would be submitted for processing and publication by the end of 2003.

23. The Review Committee continued to review submissions for the volume. It is anticipated that the remaining studies will be submitted for processing and publication as planned by the end of 2003.

(d) Volume V of Supplement No. 7

24. The 2002 report stated in paragraph 33 that work had commenced on studies for volume V in 2002. The volume will be submitted for processing and publication at the end of 2003.

(e) Volume VI of Supplement No. 7

25. According to paragraph 30 of the 2002 report, most of the studies for volume VI had been prepared, and it was tentatively expected that the remaining studies would be completed and submitted to the Review Committee in the first half of 2003.

26. The Review Committee reviewed the remaining studies for the volume, and in June 2003 the volume was submitted for processing and publication.

4. Work undertaken on volumes of Supplements Nos. 8 (1989-1994) and 9 (1995-1999)

(a) Volume IV of Supplements Nos. 8 and 9

27. With regard to volume IV of Supplements Nos. 8 and 9, the 2002 report indicated in paragraphs 35 and 36 that several studies for volume IV of Supplement No. 8 had been finalized and that work on the volume was anticipated to be completed in 2004. It was anticipated that volume IV of Supplement No. 9 would be completed at the end of 2005.

28. Work on both Supplements continues as planned.

(b) Volume VI of Supplements Nos. 8 and 9

29. Work on most of the studies for volume VI and Supplement No. 8 began in 2003. It is anticipated that volume VI of both Supplements will be finalized by the end of 2005.

5. Translation of *Repertory* volumes into French and Spanish

30. The 2002 report noted in paragraphs 38 to 41 that volume IV of Supplement No. 5 would be issued in French and Spanish in December 2002, that volume I of Supplement No. 6 would be issued in French and Spanish in June/July 2003, that volume IV of Supplement No. 6 would be issued in French and Spanish in September 2003 and that volume V of Supplement No. 6 would be issued in French and Spanish in December 2003.

31. Volume IV of Supplement No. 5 has been issued in French and Spanish. Volume I of Supplement No. 6 will be issued in French in October 2003 and Spanish in January 2004. Volume IV of Supplement No. 6 will be issued in French and Spanish in April 2004. Volume V of Supplement No. 6 will be issued in French in March 2004 and Spanish in January 2004.

6. Overall status of the *Repertory*

32. In March 2002, the Office of Internal Oversight Services indicated, in its report on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs, the year 2007 as a deadline for the elimination of the backlog. By that time, the *Repertory* should consist of a total of 45 volumes. However, four volumes (part of Supplement No. 9) will still be pending, even if already in an advanced stage of preparation. This assessment is based on the assumption that the existing system of the production of studies and level of funding will be maintained.

33. These statistics reflect only the preparation of studies, including their final approval by the Review Committee. Under the present system, however, a lag time of one to two years usually exists between the completion of all studies in a given volume and the publication of the volume, because of the low priority of the *Repertory* vis-à-vis other publications. This disadvantage will be significantly remedied by the placement of approved studies on the Internet, as well as by the proposed change in the system of editing and translation of studies (see para. 12 above).

C. Assessment of action required

34. At its August 2003 meeting, the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter *Repertory* confirmed its view that only the continued provision of adequate budgetary resources on a regular basis for *Repertory*-related tasks will permit the sustained production of the *Repertory*.

35. With regard to the goal of ensuring that the Organization devotes its attention to the priorities set by the Member States, the Secretary-General has indicated that compiling the *Repertory* is an onerous reporting responsibility requiring significant resources and that the Secretariat is simply unable to respond with timely updates. He has further indicated, in action 10 (d) of his report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387 and Corr.1) that the *Repertory* should no longer be produced by the United Nations, and, accordingly, no provisions for it are included in the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005. Nevertheless, the Special Committee on the Charter, at its April 2003 session, recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to continue eliminating the backlog, commend him for his initiative to make *Repertory* studies available on the Internet, and request that he make all versions of the *Repertory* electronically available.⁴

III. *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

A. Status of the *Repertoire*

1. Translation of the tenth Supplement

36. Pursuant to section III, paragraph 15, of General Assembly resolution 55/222 of 23 December 2000, the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* is to be published in all official languages beginning with the tenth Supplement, covering the period 1985-1988. The Chinese version of the tenth Supplement was published in July 2002 and the Russian version in December 2002. The publication of the Arabic, French and Spanish versions is expected as soon as technical difficulties relating to indexing have been resolved.

2. Preparation of the eleventh Supplement

37. The eleventh Supplement to the *Repertoire*, covering the period 1989-1992, will be completed on schedule and submitted for publication by the end of 2003.

3. Preparation of the twelfth Supplement

38. Further progress has been made in the preparation of the twelfth Supplement to the *Repertoire*, covering the period 1993-1995. It is expected that the first draft will be completed in 2004 and that the text will be submitted for publication in 2005. For this to happen, however, additional contributions to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire* are needed to finance the extension of the contracts of the four Professional staff members of the temporary team.

B. Timely preparation of future Supplements to the *Repertoire*

39. While the discussion has, in recent years, been framed in terms of eliminating the backlog, it is apparent that the more immediate concern of Member States is to have a record of developments in the Security Council's procedure and current practice. There is therefore a need to address current developments while continuing to expedite the elimination of the backlog. The latter might be approached in a similar way to that in which certain Member States have brought publications on their State practice in international law up to date. The aim would be to produce a streamlined version of the *Repertoire*, to cover the period 1996-1999, incorporating all relevant aspects of previous Supplements.

40. Should the General Assembly decide that it wishes the Secretariat to begin simultaneously to produce a contemporary Supplement commencing with the year 2000, it will be necessary for Member States to maintain current budgetary resource levels. In addition, a commitment to extrabudgetary sources of support will be of continued importance.

41. Among such resources, contributions to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire* would be useful. During the current reporting period, three Member States — France, Greece and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland — contributed a total of \$50,594 to the Trust Fund. Their financial support is greatly appreciated, as it helped to sustain the work of the additional temporary team established to prepare the twelfth Supplement. However, additional contributions are clearly needed to maintain the temporary team at the current level. Member States might also wish to consider assisting through the provision of associate experts. In that regard, the Secretariat is grateful for the contribution by France of an associate expert from March 2001 to February 2003.

IV. Conclusions

42. With respect to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, in the light of the foregoing, the General Assembly may wish to note:

(a) The progress made towards eliminating the backlog, indicated in paragraphs 14 to 33 above;

(b) The establishment of a web site for the *Repertory*, within existing resources, making available both those volumes already published and individual studies that have been finalized and approved by the Review

Committee, intended as a stopgap measure towards the elimination of the backlog;

(c) The intention to continue in 2004 the inter-office dialogue on reviewing alternative working methods for the preparation of the *Repertory*, as set out in paragraphs 7 to 12 above, and take action concerning future steps regarding the *Repertory*.

43. With respect to the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, in the light of the above, the General Assembly may wish to:

(a) Note the progress made towards eliminating the backlog in the production of the Supplements to the *Repertoire*;

(b) Note that the eleventh Supplement is scheduled for submission for publication by the end of 2003;

(c) Note that work is continuing on the twelfth Supplement;

(d) Note with appreciation the contributions made by France, Greece and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire*; note that additional contributions are needed to complete the work on the twelfth Supplement in a timely manner and to bring the *Repertoire* up to date; and note with appreciation the contribution by France of an associate expert, and call upon other Member States to consider providing such support;

(e) Endorse the two-track approach proposed by the Secretariat, to address current developments in the procedure and practice of the Council and at the same time expedite elimination of the backlog.

Notes

¹ The Committee is composed of representatives of all Secretariat units involved in the preparation of Supplements to the *Repertory* (see annex I) and is responsible for directing and overseeing the preparation and publication of those Supplements.

² See A/57/387 and Corr.1, para. 83.

³ See A/58/33, para. 183.

⁴ Ibid.

Annex I

Secretariat units bearing primary responsibility for the preparation of studies on individual provisions of the Charter of the United Nations

Office of Legal Affairs	<i>Repertory</i> volume I: Articles 1 (1), (3) and (4), 2 (1) to (3) and (5) to (7) and 7 Volume II: Article 13 (1) (a) Volume VI: Articles 92 to 99, 102 to 105 and 108 to 111
Department of Political Affairs	Volume I: Articles 1 (2), 2 (4) and 3 to 6 Volume II: Articles 10, 12, 13 (1) (a), 14 and 16 Volume III: Articles 23 to 39 and 107 Volume V: Articles 73 to 85, 87 and 88
Department of Political Affairs with Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Volume III: Articles 40 to 54 and 106
Department for Disarmament Affairs	Volume II: Article 11
Department of General Assembly and Conference Management	Volume II: Articles 9, 15, 18 and 20 to 22 Volume IV: Articles 60, 61, 62 (3) and (4), 65 to 69 and 72 Volume V: Articles 86, 89, 90 and 91
Department of Management	Volume II: Articles 17 and 19 Volume VI: Articles 100 (1) and 101
Department of Management with Office of Legal Affairs	Volume VI: Article 100 (2)
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Volume II: Article 8 ^a
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Volume II: Article 13 (1) (b) Volume IV: Articles 55 (c), 56 and 62 (2)
Office for Outer Space Affairs	Volume II: Article 13 (1) (a)

^a The Department of Management (Office of Human Resources Management) is responsible for the preparation of Article 8 for the period up to and including 1996. For the period from 1997 onwards, that responsibility falls to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Annex II**Secretariat units responsible for the coordination of the preparation of *Repertory* volumes**

<i>Volume</i>	<i>Department</i>
I. (Articles 1 to 8)	Office of Legal Affairs
II. (Articles 9 to 22)	Department of General Assembly and Conference Management
III. (Articles 23 to 54, 106 and 107)	Department of Political Affairs
IV. (Articles 55 to 72)	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
V. (Articles 73 to 91)	Department of Political Affairs
VI. (Articles 92 to 105 and 108 to 111)	Office of Legal Affairs
Index	Department of Public Information (Dag Hammarskjöld Library)



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Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Human resources development

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The General Assembly, in its resolution 56/189, recognized the importance of developing human resources as a means, inter alia, of promoting economic growth and eradicating poverty as well as of participating more effectively in the world economic system and benefiting from globalization. The present report responds to the mandate contained in that resolution. It builds on the broader view of human resources development that emerged over recent years and focuses on the issues addressed in the resolution. It highlights human resources as a means of promoting economic growth and eradicating poverty and focuses on the role of information and communication technologies in promoting human resources development. It further addresses the need for adequate resources and financing to increase investment in human resources development.

* A/58/150.

** The submission of the present report was delayed owing to the need for extensive consultations with various offices of the United Nations to reflect the latest developments in the work of the United Nations on human resources development.



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I. Introduction

1. Human resources development is central to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, targets and commitments contained in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and the Millennium Declaration, particularly those relating to poverty eradication and sustainable development. Five of the eight goals contained in the Millennium Declaration are directly related to health and education — the key components of human resources development.
2. The importance of human resources development for achieving the internationally agreed development goals has been repeatedly recognized at the intergovernmental level. The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 56/189 of 21 December 2001, recognized the importance of developing human resources as a means, *inter alia*, of promoting economic growth and eradicating poverty as well as of participating more effectively in the world economic system and benefiting from globalization. The Economic and Social Council, in its ministerial declaration of 2002, also stated that human resources development is a fundamental aspect of poverty eradication and vital to the process of sustainable development, contributing to sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection.¹
3. Human resources development and specific aspects related to health and education have remained at the forefront of the international agenda. The General Assembly special sessions on HIV/AIDS and on children provided guidance and commitments on health and education. The Dakar World Education Forum, the Education for All initiative and the many follow-up efforts launched in their wake reconfirmed the importance of education for all as an international priority. The New Partnership for Africa's Development also has health and education among its central concerns.
4. Achieving by 2015 the goals set requires adapting human resources development strategies to meet changing needs in the context of globalization. The challenge is to develop and implement human resources strategies that respond to local needs and global realities.
5. The present report responds to the request in General Assembly resolution 56/189 for a report on the implementation of the resolution.² It builds on the broader view of human resources development that has emerged over recent years and focuses on the issues addressed by resolution 56/189. These included, in particular, the need to adopt a comprehensive approach, increase investment in human resources development and promote strategies for information and communication technologies (ICT) and collaboration with the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and the harmonization of United Nations system efforts and partnerships. The important role of ICT in human resources development is particularly emphasized in paragraph 9 of resolution 56/189, which encouraged the adoption of policies, approaches and measures to narrow the increasing gap between developed and developing countries in ICT in particular and in technology in general. For this reason, the present report has a special focus on the role of ICT in promoting human resources development.

II. Human resources as a means of promoting economic growth and eradicating poverty

Human resources development in the context of globalization

6. Well-trained human capital and supportive institutional capacities are essential for developing countries to take advantage of opportunities presented by globalization. Many countries have made investments in education and health services that enable the poor to benefit from growth.³ The developing countries that have gained the most from integrating into the world economy have shown impressive improvements in primary education and infant mortality. Conversely, today's highly competitive global economy could aggravate the gap between countries in terms of human resources development. It is therefore vital for every country to have a strong national policy to build human resources. A human resources development strategy in the context of globalization must aim to provide opportunities for all, especially women and the girl child. It must be adapted to changing trends in order to maximize positive effects for the poor and offer a participatory framework that enables people to effectively influence the decision-making processes.

7. Skills and knowledge are the engines of economic growth and social development. Policies and practices that assist individuals to become employable through training, skills development and education are crucial for improving and sustaining their productivity and income-earning opportunities, and for enhancing mobility in the labour market. The development of knowledge and skills through proper training, education, dissemination and experience has been shown to increase the productivity of the industrial sector.

8. One of the benefits of globalization is greater access to a global or regional knowledge base. Although decisions about curriculum, instructional methods, use of examinations and so forth are ultimately taken at the national or local level, they can usefully be informed by knowledge about what has worked in other countries, particularly those that share linguistic and cultural traditions. In this regard, institutions and actions at the regional level may play a particularly helpful role, given similarities among countries within a region in patterns of enrolment and retention.

Comprehensive approach to human resources development

9. Over the years, the concept of human resources development has evolved into a broader socio-economic and public policy concern for facilitating the development of human capacities, knowledge acquisition, empowerment and participation and ensuring the provision of basic social services, sustainable livelihoods, justice and equity. Human resources development is an important end in itself and contributes to building tolerance and peace, but it must also be recognized as an essential form of productive investment. In response to this shift, the United Nations system in recent years has been focusing increasingly on supporting countries in fully integrating human resources development into macroeconomic policies and poverty reduction initiatives through, inter alia, technical cooperation.

10. To promote economic and social sustainability, a multisectoral approach is needed in the actual design and implementation of development strategies at the national and international levels. A comprehensive approach should maximize synergy and mutually beneficial effects of health, education and other capacity-building approaches. For example, by integrating health, education and nutrition activities, many developing countries have been able to successfully influence child health and school retention rates and to improve the school participation rate among girls.

11. Addressing the underlying determinants of health and education is key to ensuring sustained improvements. The broader factors affecting the state of human resources development, such as environment, water and sanitation, agriculture, employment, urban and rural livelihoods, trade, tourism, energy and housing, also need to be addressed through local, national and global action. The integration of human resources development with other development activities, such as rural employment or rural infrastructure programmes, can augment the capacity and capabilities of poor people and thus help in poverty reduction.

12. Paragraph 7 of resolution 56/189 emphasized the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national and local policies to promote human resources development. Gender equality is at the core of the question of whether the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved, in the areas of improving health and fighting disease, reducing poverty and mitigating hunger, expanding education and lowering child mortality, increasing access to safe water and ensuring environmental sustainability.⁴

13. To effectively address gender inequalities, gender mainstreaming is required in all human resources development policies and programmes. Gender equality considerations are essential to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of human resources development policies and programmes.

14. Full and equal access to health care and education is fundamental for the achievement of gender equality. Educating girls is an extremely effective way to achieve economic growth and is a top-ranked social investment: a year of schooling for mothers reduces child mortality by about 10 per cent; an increase of 1 per cent in the number of women with secondary education is estimated to raise per capita income by 0.3 per cent. Educated women are more likely to send their children to — and keep them in — school. Yet 75 per cent of the world's illiterate adults are women, and 60 per cent of the 113 million children who do not have access to primary schooling are girls. Girls also constitute the majority of the millions of children who drop out of school to be married, to work or to care for families decimated by AIDS, or because they are pregnant or simply because their education is not valued.⁵

15. Various trends in the world pose special challenges to women and demand a response rooted in knowledge derived from education. An increasingly knowledge-intensive society and the growth of information and communication technologies require women to acquire appropriate education and training to function well in a changing economic, social and cultural environment. Improving access to education for girls and women also involves the need to improve physical facilities in the education system and address safety matters and other problems that can hinder girls' education.⁶

16. Good health is seen as fundamental to human resources development and national prosperity. The issues to be addressed include the supply and distribution of human resources in health professions; financial, physical and social barriers to health services; safe and predictable supplies of affordable drugs and vaccines; mechanisms for increasing health coverage; a policy and institutional framework that allows the State to act as an effective steward of the health system; and modalities for working across sectors and learning from other sectors.

17. The HIV/AIDS pandemic demands that we rapidly assess the impact on human resources development — and develop an appropriate response — particularly in high-prevalence countries. Human resources in various sectors — such as education, agriculture and health — are being eroded by the impact of the epidemic, and the functions of remaining human resources are changing, often in response to a broader and more urgent range of needs. This situation is also often exacerbated by internal and external migration.

18. To maximize the contribution of human resources development to national development, it is important to develop capacities and opportunities for all generations and include the perspectives of groups of special concern, such as persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and indigenous peoples. In the face of globalization, collective capacity-building and the empowerment of communities are as important as developing individual capacity.

Box 1

School feeding programmes

In-school feeding reduces short-term hunger, contributes to alleviating nutritional deficiencies, helps children concentrate and learn and provides an entry point and logistical capacity for other interventions, such as HIV/AIDS prevention, nutrition education, hygiene and sanitation. The food acts as an incentive and catalyst for other things to happen. Communities tend to manage the food, store it and prepare it. Community involvement contributes to programme management, complementary activities and sustainability.

The World Food Programme and its partners are increasingly addressing other health and nutrition issues of school-age children, using the platform of school feeding. National, regional and local governments are involved, as well as international and local organizations, to ensure a full range of complementary activities, such as the treatment of intestinal parasites in collaboration with the World Health Organization. Partnerships with the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also provide complementary activities, and non-governmental organizations provide needed skills for activities at the community level.

Capacity-building

19. In order to reach internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, human resources development strategies need to identify specific capacity-development needs. Despite the gains made in the formulation and implementation of national development strategies, local communities in many developing countries continue to suffer from deepening poverty, widening disparities in the distribution of wealth, limited employment opportunities, a failing social security system and environmental problems, in addition to weak institutions that fail to guarantee mobilization of resources, coordination of efforts and broad-based participation.

20. To respond to these challenges, the United Nations system organizations assist developing countries to develop their capacities for human resources development, including through support for policy development and analysis, normative work and technical cooperation in areas such as health and education, employment and productive capacity, natural resource management and institution-building. The United Nations employs modalities such as advocacy and awareness-raising; policy analysis; consensus-building; provision of information on economic and social trends; capacity-building; sharing of good practices; building partnerships with civil society, the private sector and regional and subregional organizations; and focusing on implementation, monitoring and assessment. Considerable progress has also been made to increase cooperation among the various United Nations organizations. While working towards shared objectives using common modalities, the specific elements of individual work programmes give varying degrees of emphasis to different activities, based on the organizations' specific mandates and/or regional specificities.

21. Resolution 56/189 encouraged the United Nations system to focus in its cooperation activities on building human and institutional capacity, with specific attention given to women, girls and vulnerable groups. This has been reflected in many activities of the system, some of which are highlighted below.

22. To support capacity-building in countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) provides policy guidance and technical support in the area of human resources for health, through the compilation and dissemination of evidence to inform the strategic planning and policy development of human resources. WHO activities address such matters as the improvement of service delivery and of the overall performance of health systems, access to essential medicines and vaccines, better financing mechanisms and strengthening research. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supports national capacity-building for better understanding of population, development and poverty linkages through improved data and analysis; HIV/AIDS prevention; and, through greater advocacy for investments in girls' education, women's empowerment and reproductive health, which are crucial for development and poverty reduction. The health programme of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) aims to protect, preserve and promote the health status of Palestine refugees and meet their basic health needs.

23. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is encouraging countries, particularly high-prevalence countries, to implement multisectoral assessments of human-resource needs and to develop appropriate short- and long-

term strategies to address the needs identified. UNAIDS also assists in, inter alia, building the capacities of national AIDS coordinating bodies and other country partners to undertake strategic planning processes, particularly in the areas of monitoring and evaluation and resource mobilization; and strengthening national capacities for mainstreaming the issue of HIV/AIDS into social, economic and development instruments and plans.

24. The activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) emphasize capacity-building and human resources development, through, inter alia, education at all levels and throughout life; democratic governance; the incorporation of cultural factors in development strategies; environmental protection and harnessing science and technology for development; ethics of science; and the exercise of human rights as the guiding principle for development. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has also assisted in the development of regional action plans for the implementation of environmental education and training. As part of its efforts to strengthen women's role in household food security and support investments in the skills and knowledge of women and adolescents, the World Food Programme (WFP) implements food-for-training programmes, putting special emphasis on meeting the educational and skill-development needs of women. The capacity-development activities of the United Nations University upgrade the skills and knowledge of individuals, groups or institutions through specialized advanced training programmes for postgraduate scholars and young professionals, particularly from developing countries, and project-based capacity development. UNRWA education programmes have helped bring about universal literacy among the refugee population, as well as delivering technical and vocational training and education to Palestine refugee youth.

25. As for employment and productive capacity, the International Labour Organization (ILO) seeks to promote greater investment in skills development and training through advocacy, knowledge development and the improvement of training policies and programmes, particularly to support the integration of disadvantaged groups in the labour market. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) assists in strengthening the capacities of national, subregional and regional training institutions to deliver its training programmes in areas such as competition law, trade and environment, commercial diplomacy, trade financing, investment, e-commerce and port management, and promotes the extensive use of distance-learning techniques and networking. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) addresses industrial development through capacity-building by improving industrial governance and institutional infrastructure, strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises, upgrading technological capacities, enhancing skills and access to modern technology, building trade and export capabilities and adopting energy efficiency and cleaner production measures. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has assisted Member States in designing strategies for the promotion of secure and gainful employment and equitable and equal access to productive resources such as land, water and credit, and in reviewing and adopting policies that create conditions to encourage stable employment, especially in rural areas, including off-farm jobs. UNRWA contributes to human resources development through microenterprise development, job creation, poverty alleviation, women's empowerment and promoting economic growth through the provision of credit to Palestine refugees and other marginal sectors of the community.

26. To strengthen the capacity of small farmers and other disadvantaged groups of the rural population, including women, to sustainably manage agricultural and other land-based productive resources, FAO has provided assistance to develop and reform the capacities of rural public institutions and private sector and civil society organizations. UNFPA supports capacity-building and policy dialogue at the international and national levels on meeting priority needs of older persons, especially the poor and women. UNEP has assisted the development of environmental legislation and institutions, with an emphasis on direct involvement and training of nationals, strengthening internal follow-up and streamlining processes. In order to support Member States in their efforts to enable cities to become engines of development, especially for the poor, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) promotes capacity-building strategies to address the problem of slums.

27. In the area of public administration, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has taken initiatives directed at improving the capacity of public sector human resources in a number of countries, such as advising Member States, on request, on reforming the civil service. In the field of civil aviation, the strategy of the International Civil Aviation Organization for human resources development was developed to respond to the need to ensure the same quality of training throughout the world for the safety and efficiency of international civil aviation. The Universal Postal Union carries out technical assistance for developing human resources and training, based on the objectives of the Beijing Postal Strategy of 1999. The World Intellectual Property Organization undertakes initiatives to harmonize human resources development with national policies and priorities in the area of intellectual property through cooperation agreements. In 2002 it also trained more than 8,500 personnel at the national level on various aspects of intellectual property. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime assists countries in the fight against organized crime, terrorism, corruption and illicit drugs by focusing technical cooperation on strengthening the capacity of governmental and non-governmental entities, as well as on strengthening their capacity in the area of criminal justice reform.

Harmonization of the activities of the United Nations system

28. Paragraph 10 of resolution 56/189 called upon the United Nations system to harmonize further its collective human resources development efforts, in accordance with national policies and priorities. Human resources development cuts across the activities of many United Nations system organizations. Their approach centres on building human and institutional capacity in developing countries, targeting various levels, ages and groups. A number of actions have been taken at various levels to foster collaboration and joint action among the United Nations system organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The harmonization agenda is being pursued at the global and country levels, including through joint funding/reporting mechanisms and, more specifically, the pooling of funds and technical assistance in cooperation with local governments, multilateral and bilateral organizations and other stakeholders and the use of United Nations system coordination frameworks such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

29. The Millennium Development Goals provide a framework for close interaction among the United Nations system organizations. For example, on reporting, WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) share responsibilities for maternal and child health indicators, while WHO, UNAIDS and UNFPA share responsibilities for HIV/AIDS and population. The inter-agency work on reporting, in consultation with and through the United Nations country teams, ensures technical coherence in the collection, analysis and validation of data and defines reporting responsibilities. The World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Population Division are using WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS databases as their main sources of health information in respect of the goals.

30. Thirty United Nations system agencies are committed to the United Nations System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for 2001-2005, aimed at guiding the United Nations system response over that five-year period. Developed within the overall context of the Global Strategy Framework on HIV/AIDS, the Strategic Plan identifies the key functions of the United Nations system in support of national efforts and describes the approach and priorities of the participating United Nations system organizations in a coordinated response. The framework to monitor progress towards achieving the United Nations system objectives and the goals of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS was endorsed in 2002, and its mid-term review is planned for the second half of 2003.

31. Many of the United Nations capacity-development activities are designed and implemented in collaboration among the United Nations system organizations at the global, regional and country levels. In the process of joint programme or project development, concepts of capacity or human resources development are discussed and jointly developed.

32. At the regional level, the regional commissions pursue an integrated approach to implementing the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome of the global United Nations conferences, inter alia, through the collection and dissemination of best practices, exchange of experience and networking in a variety of fields. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) sponsored the African Learning Group on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, while the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has proposed a strategy to promote poor people's productive participation in the labour market. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia mobilizes locally available resources to develop cooperation and group self-reliance in the local rural community, including local leaders, women, youth and older persons. The regional commissions' efforts in promoting effective integration of the developing countries in the global economy are channelled through their regional integration work and support for the multilateral trading arrangement under WTO. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and ECA have been especially active in supporting the least developed countries in the Doha process. The Economic Commission for Europe extends assistance to facilitate the integration of transitional countries into the global economy. For all of them, ICT has emerged as one of the priority programmes in recent years.

Box 2**United Nations Girls' Education Initiative**

The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, launched by the Secretary-General at Dakar in April 2000, is an example of a global initiative that brings together 13 United Nations entities to support partnerships for girls' education at the national and regional levels. Under the Initiative, the agencies and their partners have committed themselves to a 10-year campaign for girls' education, which is aimed at improving the availability and quality of girls' education throughout the world. The overall objective of the Initiative is to eliminate gender discrimination and disparities in education systems through actions at the national, district and community levels. While the priority focus of the Initiative is basic education, in line with the global Education for All movement and the education goals of world conferences, it also supports the transition to secondary education and other aspects of education that facilitate girls' lifelong learning.

Partnerships

33. Paragraph 14 of resolution 56/189 encouraged the United Nations system to continue to engage in partnerships with the private sector so as to contribute further to the building of human resources development capacity in developing countries. The capacity-building and human resources development work conducted by the United Nations system organizations involves engagement and collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the private sector through numerous activities, including research and analysis, the dissemination of statistical and other information and technical cooperation projects. The financing for development process, leading up to the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development, opened new avenues of cooperation with various stakeholders.

34. Voluntary, non-negotiated partnerships aimed at achieving sustainable development constitute an important outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. A significant number of these partnerships have a stated focus on capacity-building, while the remainder include capacity-building as an effective tool to achieve their goals. Capacity-building in the context of these partnerships involves developing a range of individual and institutional capacities for sustainable development at the local, national and regional levels.

35. The private sector has been recognized as a crucial stakeholder in development cooperation, notably in recent major United Nations conferences. The Global Compact, since its official launch by the Secretary-General in July 2000, has expanded into a broad-based corporate citizenship initiative encompassing over 1,000 business entities, five United Nations agencies, international labour groups and more than 20 civil society organizations at the global level. Its multi-stakeholder cooperation has brought some tangible results, including an initiative to grow sustainable business in the least developed countries; a Business Guide to Conflict Impact Assessment and Risk Management; policy recommendations on transparency; and an agreement between international employers and labour groups

to cooperate in the fight against HIV/AIDS. A comprehensive report on global partnerships will be submitted separately to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, under the agenda item entitled "Towards global partnerships".

36. The need to ensure optimum use of the potential of the private sector and civil society organizations is well recognized in many other areas — for example, in strengthening health systems, supporting improved human resources management within companies and building institutions. Partners need to be more closely engaged in discussions on training policy and skills development, since a strong social dialogue process underpins the more successful training systems.

Box 3

Partnerships to fight diseases

In the light of their human, social and economic toll, infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, are fundamental barriers to development, and they require special attention. UNAIDS is promoting and supporting the formation of practical and functional partnerships between Governments and civil society organizations, including those representing people living with HIV/AIDS, women, young people and the private sector, in the implementation of human resources needs assessments and action plans.

A major challenge in the fight against HIV/AIDS is that of access to anti-retroviral drugs and drugs for opportunistic infections, as well as to treatment, which includes clinical management, nursing care, counselling and social and psychological support. The International HIV Treatment Access Coalition was launched in December 2002 to improve efforts to extend access to anti-retroviral drugs to more people in developing countries. It brings together more than 50 partners, including non-governmental organizations, donors and Governments, people living with HIV and their advocates, the private sector, research institutions and international organizations.

In late 2003, the UNAIDS secretariat will also facilitate the establishment of regional technical support facilities that will strengthen the ability of country partners to scale up national responses to HIV/AIDS by responding to their requests for capacity-building support and technical assistance in priority areas. Another such initiative is the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization.

III. The role of information and communication technologies in promoting human resources development

37. It is generally recognized that information and communication technologies are powerful tools for advancing human resources development. By improving communication and access to information and knowledge, they have an immense empowering potential for enhancing effective participation in economic, social, cultural, political and other human activities. ICT can be a potent tool for the

acceleration of economic growth and productivity, promoting sustainable human well-being, enhancing good governance and alleviating poverty.

38. However, many countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, cannot achieve the full potential benefits of the use of ICT due to lack of access, inadequate infrastructure and, even more importantly, lack of necessary human capacity. Ensuring access to new technologies and building human skills for the knowledge society are critical elements for the successful use of ICT for human development and for enhancing human and institutional capacities.

39. The organizations of the United Nations system have contributed in many ways to initiatives aimed at enabling developing countries to seize digital opportunities and thus promote and support broader and more equitable human resources development. Considerable efforts have been made to strengthen the education sector, in particular ICT literacy, and to introduce ICT applications for development, as well as to build and develop ICT infrastructure and promote appropriate policies to support countries' efforts to leverage development through ICT. The project Achieving E-Quality in the ICT Sector, supported by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Association of South-East Asian Nations SchoolNet project, supported by UNESCO, are but two examples of initiatives that focus on human resources development.

40. The various initiatives have adopted new approaches that recognize the importance of partnerships and collaborative interaction among Governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations to achieve maximum impact.

41. Harnessing ICT for human resources development is a key priority of the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force. The Task Force was launched by the Secretary-General on 20 November 2001 to respond to the challenge of promoting widespread deployment and innovative use of ICT and bringing the benefits of the digital revolution to the developing countries. It serves as a catalyst with a facilitating and advisory role designed to bring all stakeholders together, coordinate actions and build partnerships to integrate ICT into development programmes.

42. The Task Force has supported training programmes and other activities aimed at developing ICT literacy and building human capacities in the use of ICT for development. Through its Working Group on Human Resources and Capacity-building, the Task Force has worked closely with relevant United Nations agencies and other partners from the private and public sectors to enhance stakeholders' capacity to apply relevant ICT in initiatives related to community and economic development, governance, health, environment, education and disaster management. The Working Group also focuses on promoting programmes at all levels in order to provide individuals with appropriate technical skills to access ICT and facilitate the development of a technologically enabled work force.

43. Another key factor in ensuring effective use of ICT is the development of ICT infrastructure. Through its Working Group on Low Cost Connectivity and Access, the Task Force seeks to promote innovative solutions for affordable connectivity, including for the poor and in rural and remote areas. The Working Group is exploring ways of making the excess cable and satellite capacity of telecommunications carriers available to developing countries on a discounted basis.

In another initiative, the Working Group, in partnership with public and private partners, is exploring the possibility of establishing national and regional Internet exchange points in developing regions, especially in Africa, to minimize the need for expensive international connectivity, allowing Internet service providers and other network managers to achieve economies of scale in their network connectivity and expand regional coordination and cooperation on telecommunications issues.

44. The Task Force is promoting policies that help enhance developing countries' institutional capacities. Through its Working Group on National and Regional e-Strategies, the Task Force is supporting developing countries' efforts to develop comprehensive national strategies to effectively integrate ICT in their development programmes and facilitate access and use of ICT to enhance development opportunities. The Working Group has developed a document entitled "National and regional e-development strategies: a blueprint for action", a road map containing elements and steps that appear to enhance success in formulating and implementing national and regional e-strategies. At the international level, the Task Force is helping ensure a meaningful involvement of developing countries in global policy-making related to ICT.

45. The Working Group is also developing an initiative to provide technical assistance to developing countries on e-commerce and ICT issues addressed in the WTO Doha Development Agenda and possibly in other bilateral or regional trade negotiations. The initiative's objective is to help developing countries identify and represent their interests on e-commerce and ICT-related issues arising in such trade negotiations.

46. Harnessing the potential of ICT for human resources development has been a priority of many organizations of the United Nations system. Their activities have focused on raising awareness of the potential offered by ICT and on promoting applications of new technologies to the various thematic areas relating to development.

47. FAO has built a substantial knowledge base of information, gathered through workshops, expert consultations and publications, relating to the application of ICT policies and strategies to further rural development and enhance food security. UN-Habitat has been working to make ICT relevant to the real needs of cities in developing contexts. A strategic partnership has been developed with the Environmental Systems Research Institute, which is a leading developer of geographic information system (GIS) software. This partnership will lead to the provision of GIS technology and training for up to 1,000 cities in least developed countries, to enable them to participate in the collection of urban-indicator information and improve city management.

48. Information and communication technologies have also been used to improve the efficiency, accessibility and quality of the learning process in developing countries. UNCTAD has promoted the extensive use of distance-learning techniques and networking to build and strengthen training capacities at the national, regional and subregional levels in its areas of competence. A tailor-made strategy for implementing a distance-learning process has been developed to respond to the specific needs of the least developed countries. In that strategy, a feasibility study is undertaken in the future beneficiary country to identify available local institutions capable of delivering distance-learning training, as well as available computers, networks, Internet facilities and local facilitators, who will be trained by UNCTAD.

The strategy also includes the evaluation of distance-learning training networks available in partner countries, as well as of distance-learning training activities developed and implemented by other agencies or institutions, with a view to increasing cooperation between operators, maximizing synergies and avoiding overlaps. It furthermore recommends the design of specific solutions that combine face-to-face training activities with distance learning, in line with the priorities of the beneficiary countries.

49. The upcoming World Summit on the Information Society provides a unique opportunity to forge a global consensus and galvanize political leadership. The Summit could achieve the level of commitment required to address the challenges of bridging the digital divide and building a truly inclusive approach to information and knowledge, and thus to advance towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

IV. Increasing investment in human resources development

50. A number of benefits of investment in education and training have been identified. Primary education is a potent means of reducing poverty and inequality, with particularly marked benefits for the poorest segments of society. In low-income settings, primary education deserves priority in the allocation of resources. Studies have found that primary education contributes to better natural-resource management and more rapid technological adaptation and innovation, and that education is linked with the greater diffusion of information, which is crucial for boosting productivity.⁷

51. Yet many countries lack adequate resources to expand coverage and improve the quality of education and are especially challenged in providing free universal primary education. Overall tax revenues are weak, ministries often have to compete for domestic budget resources, and funds are often not available at the local level, where they are most needed. Gender disparities are also an acute problem in areas related to human resources. Estimates of additional external financing needed for primary schooling alone run from just under \$5 billion to over \$10 billion annually, and assume that countries will direct more of their own resources to education. Providing secondary and tertiary education requires additional funding.⁸

52. Regarding health, the report of the WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health on investing in health for economic development highlighted the magnitude of resources needed to achieve a positive impact on the health of the poor. The Commission estimates that additional annual spending of \$66 billion on health could generate benefits worth at least \$360 billion per year in the period 2015-2020 — a sixfold return on investment. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is one of the principal financing vehicles for paying for AIDS prevention and treatment strategies. Although the creation of the Global Fund reflected a collective global effort on the part of many nations, the private sector and individuals, much remains to be done to close the gap between what is being spent and what needs to be spent to overcome AIDS. At the same time, to produce the desired results of increased funding, the health systems of developing countries also need to be expanded, reformed and strengthened. This will require a wide range of interconnected investments and more effective strategies for using donor funds and technical assistance to build capacity.

53. Recent international conferences and summits provided a fresh impetus for overcoming the climate of aid fatigue in regard to development assistance, although total official development assistance still falls well short of the commitments made at Monterrey and Johannesburg. According to estimates of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), fulfilling those promises would raise official development assistance in real terms by 31 per cent (about \$16 billion) and the ratio of official development assistance to gross national income to 0.26 per cent by 2006 — still well below the ratio of 0.33 per cent consistently achieved until 1992. Member countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee increased their official development assistance to developing countries by 4.9 per cent in real terms, accounting for inflation, from 2001 to 2002. The total amounted to \$57 billion, equivalent to 0.23 per cent of their combined resources, measured as gross national income, marking the beginning of a recovery from the all-time low of 0.22 per cent of gross national income in each of the previous three years.

54. Concerted efforts must be made to significantly increase investments in health and education with the aim of providing access to health care and education for all persons living in poverty in developing countries, women and men alike, including groups with special needs, such as people with disabilities. Current levels of investment in health and education are inadequate. In per capita terms, public health spending is very low in most developing countries: in 2000 the median was \$1,061 in high human development countries, \$194 in medium human development countries and just \$38 in low human development countries, in purchasing power parity terms.⁹ Relative to rich countries, developing countries spend much less per student and as a proportion of gross national product at all levels of education.¹⁰ Inequity problems also exist. For example, in most poor countries the provision of basic education is highly inequitable, with the poorest 20 per cent of people receiving much less than 20 per cent of the benefits of public spending, while the richest 20 per cent receive much more.¹¹ Increased resources are needed from all sources to provide adequate and sustained resources for effective programmes.

55. Trade is one of the important sources for fostering development and financing human resources development. A universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can stimulate development and generate resources that can be used to strengthen the delivery of education and health services. External debt relief, including debt swaps for social development, can also contribute to liberating resources for activities consistent with attaining sustainable growth and development, such as in the areas of health and education.

56. Remittances are another important source of financing for many developing countries. Remittances are the second largest source of external financing, after foreign direct investment, and are considered to be more stable and longer term than official development assistance or private capital flows. The World Bank estimated remittances through official channels in 2002 at \$80 billion.¹² If the estimates for remittances through unofficial channels were included, the figure would be significantly higher. Regimes to better manage and channel remittances into investments are needed, such as microinvestments in community development funds or future remittance-backed securitization.

57. Although increased spending on education and health is key to poverty reduction, simply allocating more resources to these sectors does not ensure a

decline in poverty. Greater attention needs to be given to the distribution of social spending and the way these sectors are managed. Instead of simply providing services to the poor, it is necessary to meet their needs for services. Health and education expenditures need to be better targeted, and policies must be judged by their outcomes and enhance the efficiency of these sectors. Expenditure should be directed to universal schemes, such as establishing rural and urban clinics, kindergartens and primary schools that serve the poor. Education and training investments should be closely linked to economic and employment growth strategies and programmes, and should respond to the demands of the economy.

Box 4

Promoting financing of pro-poor health policies

WHO is strengthening the evidence base for pro-poor health policy options, by systematically documenting the design and implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and relating them to more complete and comparable evidence on trends in health system inputs, coverage and outcomes. Further, as part of the country focus initiative, WHO is strengthening its ability to provide support to national health authorities in their design of pro-poor health policies. This will enable Member States to allocate funds from debt relief and other sources to strategies that are effective and meet the needs of the poor and other vulnerable groups. WHO has also devised an asset index that can be used to compare the health of poor people with that of non-poor, and to determine whether a health system is less responsive to the needs of the poor.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

58. Strategies for human resources development should include developing capacities and opportunities for all generations and the perspectives of groups of special concern, such as persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and indigenous peoples. Gender equality considerations should be made an essential element of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of human resources development policies and programmes.

59. Concerted efforts must be made to significantly increase investments in health and education, with the aim of providing access to health care and education to all persons living in poverty, women and men alike, including groups with special needs, such as people with disabilities. Health and education expenditures also need to be better targeted.

60. The HIV/AIDS pandemic requires urgent efforts combining short-term humanitarian responses with long-term development measures to rebuild the human capacity lost to AIDS.

61. Training systems need to become more flexible and responsive to rapidly changing skill requirements, and should also serve learners in the informal economy. School-to-work schemes for young people should integrate education with workplace learning.

62. The development of core work skills (such as communication, problem-solving, etc.) should form an important part of basic education and literacy programmes to prepare individuals for the knowledge- and skills-based society.
63. The application of distance-learning techniques could be extended to various human resources development activities and programmes.
64. Policies for expanding the use of technologies should take into account the existing capacities, means and possibilities in the countries concerned and encourage the use of available local resources, including traditional information systems.
65. Information and communication technologies should be adapted to the needs of communities and made as user-friendly and accessible to the community as possible.
66. Efforts should be made to increase the flow of development financing and its greater allocation to human resources development.

Notes

¹ See A/57/3 part I, para. 44, "Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment submitted by the President of the Council", para. 3.

² In the preparation of the report, contributions were received from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations University, the Universal Postal Union, the World Food Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Health Organization.

³ See *Globalization, Growth and Poverty: Building an Inclusive World Economy* (World Bank, 2002).

⁴ See United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report 2003*, p. 50.

⁵ See E/CN.9/2003/3, para. 40.

⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 41.

⁷ See E/CN.9/2003/2, para. 10.

⁸ See Joint statement on the second anniversary of the World Education Forum by the heads of UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank, 26 April 2002.

⁹ See UNDP *Human Development Report 2003*, p. 98.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 93.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

¹² See *Global Development Finance 2003 — Striving for Stability in Development Finance*, p. 160 (World Bank, 2003).